

ALL THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR 1978/79

SHOOT!

15p

RAY KENNEDY
(Liverpool and
England)

19th AUGUST, 1978

CHARITY SHIELD

**NOTTM.
FOREST
V.
IPSWICH**

COLOUR

**'SUPERSTARS' in action
Focus On DAVE THOMAS (Everton)**

WEMBLEY SHOWPIECE

FOREST DOUBLE-WINNERS V. IPSWICH CUP KINGS

THE curtain comes up on season 1978-79 on Saturday (August 12) with what promises to be the most colourful and exciting F.A. Charity Shield match of all time.

The whole atmosphere will be one of a stirring game of football, laced with all the factual and physical trimmings of a climatic final chapter in a fictional football novel.

Because this time last year only the geographically committed gave either Ipswich Town or Nottingham Forest a chance of winning one of the three major honours.

Yet by the time last season reached its climax, these two so-called unfashionable clubs had swept the board, taking the League Championship and Football League Cup back to the land of Sherwood Forest in cavalier rather than outlaw style, and the F.A. Cup to the picturesque flatlands of Suffolk.

The experts stood and gaped. The cynics muttered dark forebodings. The 'fashionable' clubs promised immediate and stinging revenge for tattered pride. But two men, Forest boss Brian Clough and Ipswich manager Bobby Robson just laughed... an emotion all too

rarely expressed in football these days. And also one only afforded those who have actually won something.

The World Cup and Liverpool's retention of their European Cup have combined to rather dull the pleasurable memory of last season's domestic competitions. The Charity Shield match will undoubtedly refocus the attention of the nation.

Even now, Forest's unique 'double' stands out as a staggering achievement. For so many years a club in the backwaters of mediocrity, they spluttered to life off the field more quickly than on when

Nottingham Forest skipper John McGovern proudly displays the League Championship to their supporters.



LEFT... Ipswich celebrate in similar style after their F.A. Cup Final win.

Clough and partner Peter Taylor took over.

And as Wolves and Chelsea marched back to the First Division in 1976-77, Forest quietly joined them, scraping home in third place. Within 12 months the whole picture altered.

Clough bought swiftly and wisely. Peter Shilton, Kenny Burns, Archie Gemmill and David Needham proved ideal signings. The team made an electric start. But they were viewed as early-season pace-makers destined to burn themselves out long before the end.

But Forest kept on playing good football, scoring goals, winning matches, attracting spectators and confounding their knockers.

By the time they had beaten mighty Liverpool 1-0 in a replayed League Cup Final at Manchester United's Old Trafford, people began to sit up and take notice.

But the controversy surrounding John Robertson's penalty winner rather spoiled Forest's night.

Without once making a bold prediction, Clough guided Forest through a less than commanding series of performances in their run-in to the title. But they lost only three games out of 42 and made nonsense of every pre-season prediction. Thus they open this season in fitting surrounds — Wembley Stadium fired, perhaps, by the knowledge their critics have now turned to insisting Forest will not win the title again.

If only those people realised what a supreme compliment such a prediction represents.

For all their promise over the past six years, Ipswich Town failed to live up to Robson's hopes. Time and again they missed out. Beaten in the 1975 F.A. Cup Semi-Finals by West Ham United, knocked out of the U.E.F.A. Cup after building up a 3-0 home first-leg lead. It seemed as if they were destined to retain their image of the country boys, cut out only for bridesmaids roles in the 'big League'.

But Robson fought this theory as only he knows how... by building

a team capable of playing top-class, entertaining football. He turned down offers to manage some of the biggest clubs in England. He worked hard with his players and was sometimes hard on them. But the combination of ability, dedication and respect won through.

Despite a crippling list of injuries and a morale shattering 6-1 League defeat at Aston Villa shortly before the big day, Ipswich arrived at Wembley in the shadow of favourites Arsenal.

Despite their equal League status, some vast chasm appeared to separate the clubs on such an occasion. Perhaps it was tradition — something which Arsenal use for life-blood and Ipswich comparably lack.

But on the day it was the penetrative long-ball game played by Ipswich, coupled with Robson's intelligent and inspired ploy of playing the little-known David Geddis wide on the right to stifle the attacking instincts of Sammy Nelson which won the Cup.

Arsenal often had more of the ball with ut making a real impression: on the excellent Allan Hunter and Kevin Beattie. Ipswich made the ball work every time they got a touch. Was it the hungry v the blase? That, perhaps, is cruel on an Arsenal team for which injuries and wilting form combined to provide Ipswich with a transfusion of that 'traditional blood'.

The teams made it an exciting and often memorable Final. But Ipswich had won the Cup long before Roger Osborne cracked the winning goal. It was, barring some unbelievable freak of bad luck, only a matter of time.

So the two 'surprise' teams of last season meet to test their very different styles of award-winning play. The Ipswich strength, long-ball game and incisive finishing against the intricate yet made to look so simple attacking ploys of skilful Forest.

One thing is for sure. It will be no surprise to anyone if this game is one hell of a contest.

Facts and figures about past Charity Shield games

SATURDAY'S match between Champions Nottingham Forest and F.A. Cup winners Ipswich Town will be only the fifth played at Wembley Stadium.

The first was in 1974 when Liverpool played Leeds United and the game will mainly be remembered for the shirts littering the ground as Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner threw them off after being sent-off by the referee.

Although the Charity Shield has yet to command a capacity attendance at Wembley, it is still a far cry from its humble beginnings in 1908.

The competition was the idea of The Football Association with the object to quote from the official statement at the time: "To give totals to approved charities from these matches."

Inaugurated in 1908, the first game took place at Stamford Bridge on April 27th of that year between Manchester United, Champions of the Football League and Queens Park Rangers, Champions of the Southern League.

The first year was also to see the only replay in the fixture, Manchester United winning 4-0 after a 1-1 draw. Since then if the match has finished in a draw, it has either been decided on penalty kicks or both of the competing clubs have held the Shield for six months each.

Manchester United are the Charity Shield kings as they have appeared in ten matches. Arsenal are runners-up with nine appearances, although The Gunners last was in 1953 when they beat Blackpool 3-1.

Manchester United were also in a Charity Shield match that is still talked about. In 1967 United drew 3-3 with Tottenham Hotspur and one of the Spurs goals was scored by goalkeeper Pat Jennings.

Jennings advanced to the edge of his area to clear the ball and it soared over the head of the advancing United 'keeper Alex Stepney for one of the few goals scored by a goalkeeper without the aid of a penalty-kick.

The Champions of the Football League and the Southern League were to meet for the first four seasons of the Shield.

Subsequently it was competed for by teams chosen by The Football Association and in the 1920's it was often between the Professionals and The Amateurs. Although most games since are between the League Champions and F.A. Cup winners.

Many of the matches have produced games of skilful soccer, none more so than the encounter at Stamford Bridge in 1950 when the England team that played in the Brazil World Cup Finals, that should bring back memories of U.S.A's 1-0 victory,

played the F.A. XI that had toured Canada the same summer.

The last time a representative side played was in 1961 when Tottenham who had completed the 'double' the previous season beat an F.A. XI 3-2.

Although the players receive a gold medal for playing in the Shield, it is only since the fixture has switched to Wembley that it has become a 'must' for clubs.

Previous to Wembley, several times either the League Champions or F.A. Cup winners have turned down the chance of playing in the Charity Shield.

It was the fourth-ever that produced the highest score in the fixture. Manchester United beat Swindon Town 8-4 in 1911 with United forward Harold Halse scoring six of the goals.

It may be too much to hope the Wembley fans will see a goalscoring spree like that this week. But an entertaining game will see the new season off to a good start.

Charity Shield results

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	SCORE
1908	Manchester United	Queens Park Rangers	4-0
		(after 1-1 draw)	
1909	Newcastle United	Northampton Town	2-0
1910	Brighton and Hove A.	Aston Villa	1-0
1911	Manchester United	Swindon Town	8-4
1912	Blackburn Rovers	Queens Park Rangers	2-1
1913	Professionals	Amateurs	7-2
1920	West Bromwich A.	Tottenham Hotspur	2-0
1921	Tottenham Hotspur	Burnley	2-0
1922	Huddersfield Town	Liverpool	1-0
1923	Professionals	Amateurs	2-0
1924	Professionals	Amateurs	3-1
1925	Amateurs	Professionals	6-1
1926	Amateurs	Professionals	6-3
1927	Cardiff City	Corinthians	2-1
1928	Everton	Blackburn Rovers	2-1
1929	Professionals	Amateurs	3-0
1930	Arsenal	Sheffield Wednesday	2-1
1931	Arsenal	West Bromwich Albion	1-0
1932	Everton	Newcastle United	5-3
1933	Arsenal	Everton	3-0
1934	Arsenal	Manchester City	4-0
1935	Sheffield Wednesday	Arsenal	1-0
1936	Sunderland	Arsenal	2-1
1937	Manchester City	Sunderland	2-0
1938	Arsenal	Preston North End	2-1
1940	Arsenal	Manchester United	4-3
1949	Portsmouth	Wolverhampton W	1-1*
1950	World Cup Team	Canadian Touring Team	4-2
1951	Tottenham Hotspur	Newcastle United	2-1
1952	Manchester United	Newcastle United	4-2
1953	Arsenal	Blackpool	3-1
1954	Wolverhampton W	West Bromwich Albion	4-4*
1955	Chelsea	Newcastle United	3-0
1956	Manchester United	Manchester City	1-0
1957	Manchester United	Aston Villa	4-0
1958	Bolton Wanderers	Wolverhampton W	4-1
1959	Wolverhampton W	Nottingham Forest	3-1
1960	Burnley	Wolverhampton W	2-2*
1961	Tottenham Hotspur	F.A. XI	3-2
1962	Tottenham Hotspur	Ipswich Town	5-1
1963	Everton	Manchester United	4-0
1964	Liverpool	West Ham United	2-2*
1965	Manchester United	Liverpool	2-2*
1966	Liverpool	Everton	1-0
1967	Manchester United	Tottenham Hotspur	3-3*
1968	Manchester City	West Bromwich Albion	6-1
1969	Leeds United	Manchester City	2-1
1970	Everton	Chelsea	2-1
1971	Leicester City	Liverpool	1-0
1972	Manchester City	Aston Villa	1-0
1973	Burnley	Manchester City	1-0
1974	Liverpool	Leeds United	1-1
		(Liverpool won 6-5 on penalties)	
1975	Derby County	West Ham United	3-0
1976	Liverpool	Southampton	1-0
1977	Liverpool	Manchester United	0-0*

*Each Club retained Shield for six months.



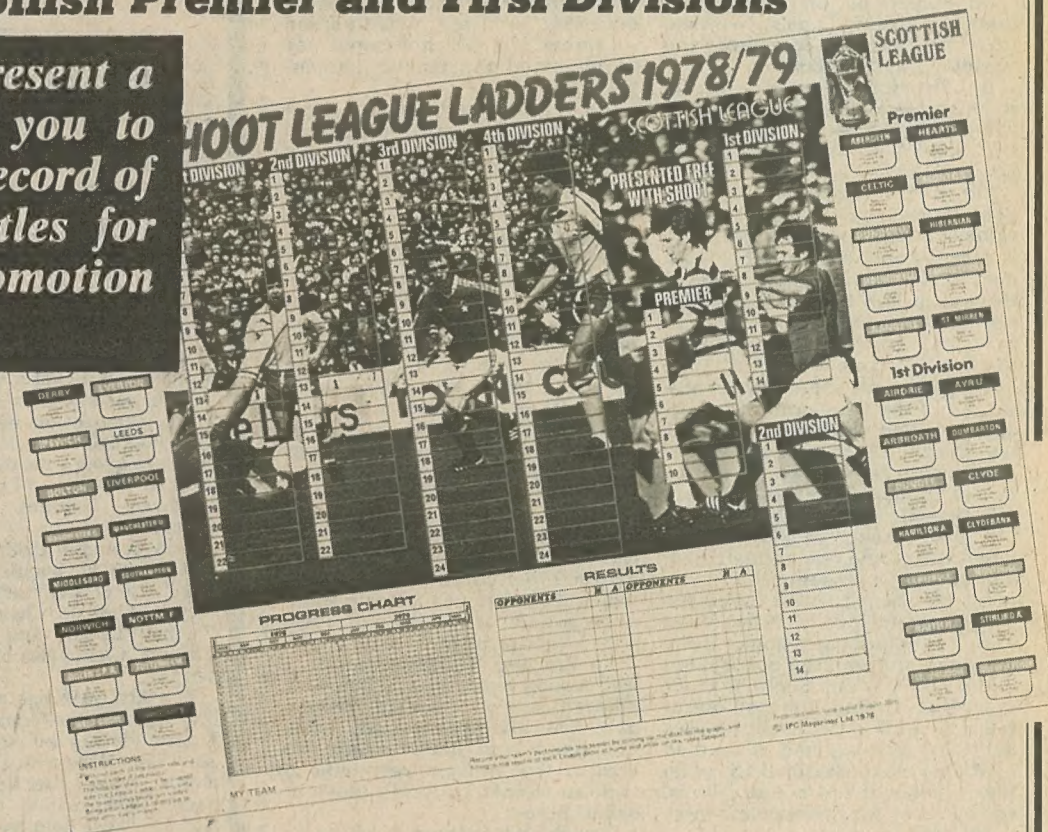
ABOVE... Liverpool players celebrate a goal during the first Charity Shield game at Wembley. 'Pool drew 1-1 with Leeds, but took the Shield after a penalty decider.

FREE with next week's START-OF-THE-SEASON SHOOT

Full-colour League Ladder + Team-Tabs for the Football League First Division, the Scottish Premier and First Divisions

SHOOT is proud to present a free gift that enables you to keep a week-by-week record of the ever-changing battles for the major titles, promotion and relegation.

And it comes to you in three parts: the first, with next week's issue, dated August 26th; the second, comprising team-tabs for the Second Divisions of the Football League and the Scottish League with the issue dated September 2nd; and the third, of team-tabs for the Football League's Third and Fourth Divisions, with the issue dated September 9th.



Every issue will contain a variety of features sure to capture the imagination and inform the most demanding football fan.

Just whet your appetite by studying the list of features in preparation for next week's issue:

COLOUR: The players voted by SHOOT readers as the most exciting of the year in England and Scotland — Kenny Dalglish and Derek Johnstone — are shown receiving their trophies in Argentina during the World Cup Finals + Team group of one of the teams most likely to succeed in 1978/79 — Manchester City + Pin-up of Steve Coppell of Manchester United + Focus on Steve Buckley of Derby.

FEATURES: Previews of curtain-raising League matches with an extra-special slant + News of clubs making interesting changes for the new season + A fascinating Crosstalk between Alan Mullery and Terry Venables, managers of Brighton and Crystal Palace, who have forged many links in their careers + West Brom manager Ron Atkinson talks about himself and his attitudes towards the game + Milestones likely to be reached by clubs and players + The managerial career of Nottingham Forest boss Brian Clough + Columns from our new star-writer 'signings' Gordon McQueen of Manchester United and

Derek Johnstone of Rangers, who will write fortnightly for the magazine + Four players who have something to prove next season + We look into the SHOOT 'crystal ball' and come up with our predictions as to the fortunes of the clubs in both Leagues + Progress report on Kevin Keegan, embarking on his second season with West German club Hamburger SV + A survey of the cost of watching games — then and now + All the popular regular items, such as 'News Desk', 'World Wide', 'You are the Ref'—compiled by world cup referee Clive Thomas, 'Ask the Expert' and 'Goal Lines'.

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ASK THE EXPERT

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1966 and all that

I know England won the World Cup in 1966, but could you please tell me the other nations who played in the final stages?

**PATRICK SHERMAN,
PLYMOUTH**

● For a start, Patrick, West Germany were the beaten Finalists — while Portugal pipped Russia for third place.

The remaining dozen nations were Uruguay, Mexico, France, Argentina, Spain, Switzerland, Hungary, Brazil, Bulgaria, North Korea, Italy, and Chile.

Reading are best

As a very loyal supporter of Reading, I'd like to know the highest they've ever finished in the League, and the furthest they've ever reached in the Cups?

**KEITH NEIGHBOUR,
HENLEY-on-THAMES**

● Finishing 14th in Division Two in 1926-27 is Reading's League best, Keith.

That was far and away their best season, for they also reached the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup — but, alas for them, were beaten 3-0 by Cardiff, who then went on to beat Arsenal at Wembley.

In the League Cup, Reading reached the Fourth Round in the successive years of 1965 and 1966.

Euro games

Could you tell me the dates of England's matches in the European Championship?

**BRADLEY STEPHENS,
CAMBERLEY**

● England kick-off, Bradley, with away games in Denmark (20th September), and Eire (25th October); followed by a home game against Northern Ireland on 7th February, next year.

Next summer, on 6th June, they play away in Bulgaria — followed by Denmark at home (12th September), Northern Ireland away (17th October), and Bulgaria at home (21st November).

The final game in England's group is at home to Eire on 6th February, 1980.

World Cup

In the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, did Italy get through their preliminary Group by scoring only one goal?

**ANDREW GARWOOD,
WINDSOR**

● Dead right, Andrew. With four points, Italy topped Group Two by way of a 1-0 win over Sweden, and 0-0 draws against Uruguay and Israel.

They did find more goal-touch later on, though — beating Mexico 4-1 in the Quarter-Finals, and West Germany 4-3 in the Semi-Finals, before Brazil defeated them 4-1 in the Final.

Early start for County

I know Notts County are the oldest club in the Football League, but I'd like to know the result of their first-ever match in the League.

**JONATHAN STEELE,
OAKHAM**

● As you say, Jonathan, County are the oldest League club — founded in 1862, 16 years before the League itself kicked-off.

And their first game there saw them beaten 2-1 away by Everton on 15th September, 1888.

Not enough!

What's the highest number of points a club has ever got while being relegated from the English First Division?

**PHILIP BRANT,
ADDLESTONE**

● It's as high as 38, Philip — the number Spurs got when they had the chop in 1927-28. And Middlesbrough, relegated with them, were only one point behind on 37.

Ironically, Everton's mere 53 points was enough to take the League title that season — so there was only 15 points difference between the Champions and the better of the two relegated clubs.

Chelsea's first

I'd like to know the result of Chelsea's first-ever League game?

**TIMOTHY RICHARDS,
GWENT**

● Took place on 2nd September, 1905, Timothy, when they lost a Division Two match away to Stockport by 1-0.

But Chelsea got off to a happier start in their first home game, a few days later, when Hull were beaten 5-1.

SHORT PASSES

● Joe Jordan's only major League clubs have been Morton, Leeds, and now Manchester United.

(STUART WHATLEY, Billericay)

● The record attendance at Southport is 20,010 for a Fourth Round F.A. Cup replay v. Newcastle on 26th January, 1932.

(JOHN MELVIN, Southport)

● German-born goalkeeper Bert Trautmann played 508 League games for Manchester City between 1949 and 1964.

(A. BROOKES, Birkenhead)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!,
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£3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Miss Goh Guat Khunn of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, who wins our Special Prize of £3. She writes:

HELPFUL ENGLAND

I WOULD like to tell you about the summer tour by the England B team. When it was announced they'd be coming, it generated tremendous interest out here. However, when some players began to pull out for one reason or another we wondered what to expect.

I'm glad to say I was pleasantly surprised by the England players' attitude both on and off the field. A few days before the game my friends and I visited their hotel and we found the players very friendly and courteous.

They answered our bombardment of questions and signed autographs for us gladly. I would mention Gordon Hill, in particular, was most helpful; he went up to his room and returned with some photos for us. Treasured souvenirs indeed!

On the field, the team was impressive, demonstrating top-class ball-control, accurate passing and powerful heading. Gordon's mazy runs down the wing were a joy to watch.

In closing, you may be interested to know the game ended 1-1, showing the Malaysian national team is no pushover!

● Always happy to report the good things that too often go unnoticed in soccer. I'm glad the England players were fine ambassadors.

Exchange

I WOULD like to exchange pen-pals with fans around the world. I support Arsenal. You can write in English, Finnish, Swedish, German, French or Norwegian.

LASSE GRANBACK,
BOX 14029,
720 14 VASTERAAS 14,
SWEDEN.

Schoen's Success

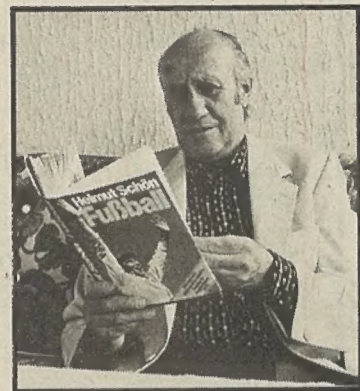
I WAS interested, although disappointed, to read about the retirement of West Germany manager Helmut Schoen.

Despite their dismal 1978 World Cup performances, it must not be forgotten that during Schoen's reign the Germans have had almost nothing but success.

Argentina was a mere blot on an otherwise superb career and without Schoen, West Germany will

never be quite the same.

**ANDREW CULLEN,
WARRINGTON.**



● Yes, it was a pity the world's most successful international manager retired without another success. But we must be thankful for all Schoen (seen here with his autobiography) has done for soccer — not just in his own country, but for the game in general.

Relieved

AS a supporter of the Scottish national team, I was more than relieved to hear the news Ally MacLeod was to carry on as manager.

Although Scotland had two bad results in Argentina against Peru and Iran, they did beat Holland, the Dutch side's only defeat except for the Final.

It was not Ally's fault.

**STEPHEN BROWNE,
DINES GREEN**

● You must be joking! As a person I like "Muhammad Ally" very much, but it was proved he simply wasn't up to the job of being an international manager in Argentina. He hadn't even seen Peru and Iran play before the Finals! And as far as beating the Dutch — so what? It's like England beating Italy at Wembley — it meant nothing.

Atmosphere

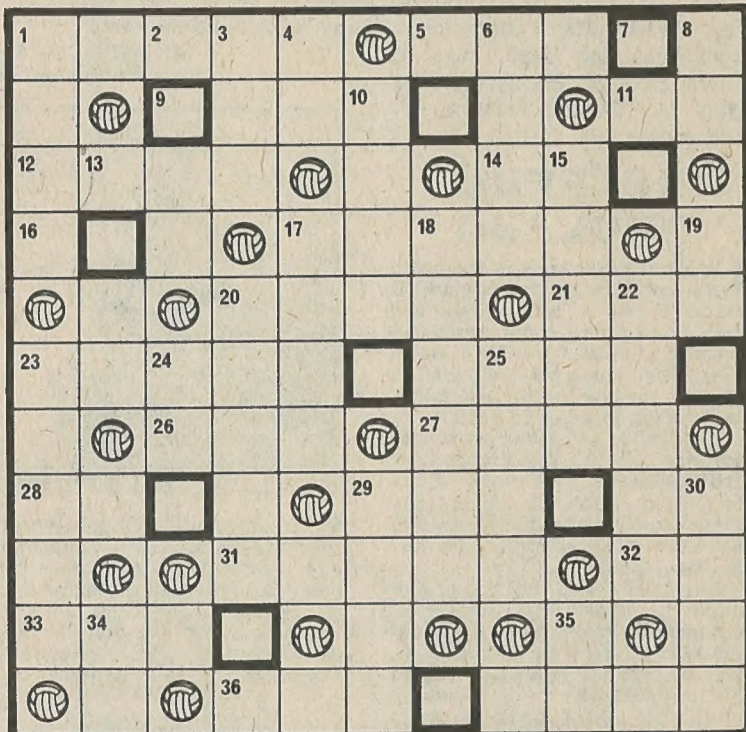
I WISH we could generate the same kind of atmosphere at Wembley as the Argentina fans did during the World Cup. I've been to Wembley and even when England have scored, there was nothing fanatical about the reaction.

**K. HATCHETT,
FINCHLEY.**

● It would be difficult for ANY fans to be more fervent than those seen during the World Cup, but England supporters should get behind their team more. They haven't had too much to cheer about lately, but Ron Greenwood has them giving the sort of vocal backing every side needs.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Spurs player. Answers on page 46.



ACROSS:—

- (1) John —, Spurs midfielder.
- (5) Billy —, West Ham full-back or midfielder.
- (9) Release tightness of a boot, for instance.
- (11) John M--chell of Millwall.
- (12) The —, ground of Halifax Town.
- (14) Raceco-r-- Ground, Wrexham.
- (16) Alan Hud--- of Arsenal.
- (17) Help perhaps by shouting encouragement or applause.
- (20) Ridge or mark left on the skin after a kick.
- (21) One of Middlesbrough's colours.
- (23) Ground of Liverpool (7 & 4)
- (26) Sir — Ramsey, former England manager.
- (27) Slight indication.
- (28) Clyde----; Scottish First Division club.
- (29) Emblems worn in the team colours, for instance.
- (31) Separate articles as make up one's soccer kit.
- (32) Feye--ord; Dutch League club.
- (33) Cl--de play at Sh--field Stadium in the Scottish Seco--d Division.
- (36) — Park, Crystal Palace's ground.

DOWN:—

- (1) Transfer of the ball between players.
- (2) — Kennedy, Newcastle United defender.
- (3) Bris--l Cit-- from Ashton Gate.
- (4) --m Forsyth of Rangers and Scotland.
- (5) John Ro--rtson of Nottingham Forest.
- (6) -c--th-rpe United. Burden from the omissions reversed.
- (7) Barry -a-n-s, Spurs 'keeper.
- (8) — Mirren, Scottish Division One Champions, 1976/7.
- (10) Take five letters from Aldershot for a large group of fish.
- (13) The Hawt----s, West Bromwich Albion's ground.
- (15) Les —, Fulham full-back.
- (17) -rian Gr--nho-f of Manchester United.
- (18) English club from Boundary Park ground.
- (19) Tony G----en, West Bromwich Albion 'keeper.
- (20) Ray —, Chelsea midfielder.
- (22) --s----d Park; Dunfermline Athletic's ground.
- (23) — Stadium, Cambridge United.
- (24) Enthusiastic follower of the team.
- (25) P--estfiel--tadium (Gillingham).
- (29) Colin —, Manchester City midfielder.
- (30) Rain would make the pitch thus.
- (34) Kenny D-Igli-h of Liverpool.
- (35) Alan --ugh (Partick). The omissions reversed.

WE at Liverpool hoped that starting the season with a visit to Wembley to battle for the Charity Shield was going to become a habit.

For the past two years we've appeared — in 1976 against Southampton when we won 1-0, and in 1977 against Manchester United, when we played a goal-less draw and each held the trophy for six months apiece.

Some people — my former club team-mate Kevin Keegan among them — feel it's unfair to expect

sided midfielder player in the World Cup." He is the man who made Argentina tick, the hub of the team, with immaculate control and superb passing skill, and the ability to attack opponents with the ball.

But he is on the slight, willowy side, and he could find it difficult to cope with the strong tackling in our game. In South America, the physical contact is generally confined to less-hurtful body-checking and petty fouling, such as shirt-pulling. I've a feeling his more robust com-

RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer

players to play in such a prestigious, demanding game, that lack of match-fitness prevents them giving their best. But I can't really imagine anyone turning down the chance!

This season's occasion should rank as one of the most exciting, being between Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest, who had such a marvellous last season, doing a first-time double of Championship and League Cup, both at our expense; and Ipswich Town, who threw off their "underdog" tag in the F.A. Cup Final to serve up an exciting

panion, Villa, will make more of an impact in our football.

But the big problem, as I see it, is in communication. From all accounts neither is fluent in English — although Ardiles can hold a limited conversation — and although an interpreter can be used in training, there won't be one present on the pitch during a game to inform the Argentines of any necessary change in tactics. At half-time in the dressing-room it could be too late. By then a game could be lost beyond recall.

'ENGLISH

brand of soccer that had fellow Finalists Arsenal reeling for almost the entire 90 minutes.

But for some great 'keeping by Pat Jennings, the Blues from Suffolk would have won by far more than the one goal, scored by Roger Osborne. I won't risk a prediction on the result. All I will say is the pressure is more on Forest. They will find, as we Reds have done over the years, that every game becomes a "Cup Final" simply because opponents feel a special sense of achievement if they beat the current Champions.

This clash is amongst the handful at the start of the season that have already captured the imagination of everybody inside and outside the game. Another also features Forest — their first League game, at City Ground, against newly-promoted Spurs.

The big attractions here are the League debuts of Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa, two members of the World Cup-winning squad of Argentina, bought for a massive £750,000 by Spurs' manager Keith Burkinshaw. The signings have created tremendous interest, and have been the subject of some recent letters from readers.

They're all eager to know my reactions to one of the transfer scoops of the century. Reader Jeremy Gates, of Luton, Beds, is typical. He poses the questions: "How do you think Ardiles and Villa will fare in our football? And is this the start of a large influx of foreign players?"

There's no doubt Ardiles was, as England manager Ron Greenwood described him: "The finest right-



As for their signing setting a trend, I doubt if we'll see many other clubs following the example of Spurs and Sheffield United, who signed another Argentine, Alejandro Sabella, for around £75,000. Mainly because we could not offer rewards at least comparable with what they receive in their own country. Argentina is an exception,

Tottenham boss Keith Burkinshaw with his two Argentinians Villa (left) and Ardiles.



'Spurs' Argentine stars could have communication trouble'

CLUBS WON'T ATTRACT MANY FOREIGN STARS'

with an inflation rate over ten times worse than in Britain.

In most European countries, stars are more highly paid and less harshly taxed. I also can't see foreign coaches and managers being encouraged to come here — but for a different reason.

In my opinion we already have some of the best in the game. Surely even the most successful current boss on the Continent cannot match our Bob Paisley's achievement of two European Cup wins on the trot?

Many other readers have asked me questions about my close season visit to Australia to do duty as a TV commentator during the World Cup Finals. Reader Mark Symonds of Brighton, Sussex, was especially interested in my turning out for St. George, a team in the Philips League, equivalent to our First Division.

"You mentioned Dixie Deans, the former Celtic striker, played against you. Did you meet any other ex-players there from Britain?"

No, but I saw quite a few in action in televised games, Mark.

Bertie Lutton, once of Wolves, has emigrated and is playing regularly. Peter Marinello, once hailed as "the second George Best" when he signed for Arsenal in January, 1970, and now, back home in Scotland with Motherwell, was guesting for a club.

Phil Dando, who used to be an apprentice 'keeper when I first

'One day, I'd like to play in the States'



Ray's Liverpool team-mate, Tommy Smith, in action for Los Angeles Aztecs.

came to Liverpool, but failed to make the grade and moved out to New Zealand for a four-year spell, is now performing regularly "Down Under".

He rang me during my visit with a request for me to make some sort of presentation at his club, but unfortunately it was too far away.

A lad from Middlesbrough attracted a great deal of attention. His name is Craig Johnston, who plays up-front. I'd classify him as a big fish in a small pond, simply because he did not have the same quality of competition as he faces in England. I could be doing him an injustice, but when I watched him on TV I got the impression he had quite a bit of skill but was not a hard-worker.

Ralph Coates was released by

Spurs to play for St. George, the club I "guested" for.

Another reader, Mary Minter, of Padstow, Cornwall, writes: "Have you ever been approached to play for a club in the United States during the summer. Your team-mates, Tommy Smith and Ian Callaghan, are over there right now, I believe."

No, I haven't been asked, Mary, for the simple reason Liverpool have made it clear they are not prepared to allow a regular first team player go to America.

Obviously, my club feel after 70-odd hard-fought games for club and country we should rest-up for next season.

Tommy and Ian, as perhaps you weren't aware, both made only around 40 appearances apiece for Liverpool last term, so the club had

no objections to them accepting offers.

One day, though, towards the end of my career at Anfield, I hope to play in the States, as it is something that has always appealed to me.

Perhaps I'll even finish my playing days there, as many others are doing.

Seeing so much World Cup soccer on TV prompted reader Danny McEwen — who was born in County Kerry, Eire, but now lives in Wide-open, in the North-East — to ask whether I think we should have a mid-winter break, like most European countries — and start the season earlier.

A great idea, Danny, but one that couldn't work in practice due to our unpredictable weather.

For instance, suppose we picked January as the break period. Past experience tells us we're just as likely to have perfect playing conditions with the sun shining as we are to have snow and ice or slush.

No, I think we should leave things just as they are.

Right now I'm looking forward to the Big Kick-off on August 19th.

Join me next week when I'll be sticking my neck out, making forecasts for next season.

Ray McEwen

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SOCCER IN THE STATES

ILIJIA MITIC, the only American League player to top 100 goals, has been released by San Jose Earthquakes.

Mitic, 39, reached the ton when he converted a penalty against Memphis in June. He plans to retire and concentrate on his accountancy business.

JIMMY MELIA, one of soccer's happy wanderers, has turned up as assistant-coach to the Southern California Lazars in the ASL.

The former Liverpool star and one-time manager of Aldershot and Southampton is enjoying his spell in California.

Says Jimmy: "I'm only here for the season, but I'd love to come back again. It's certainly a change from Dubai where I've spent the last two years."

PIERCE O'LEARY can't quite believe the things that have happened to him over the past year.

Less than 12 months ago, 19-year-old Pierce — brother of Arsenal's David — was playing local soccer in Ireland.

Then Johnny Giles signed him for Shamrock Rovers and the youngster finished the season with a Cup Winners' medal.

When Giles left to play for Philadelphia Fury he took Pierce with him.

Says the teenage defender: "I can hardly keep up with what's happened to me. Coming to the States has been a tremendous experience. And when I get back home there's the European Cup-Winners' Cup to look forward to."

EXPRESS BLITZ . . .

IT'S BEEN record-breaking time in America lately. Led by Trevor Francis, Detroit Express recorded the biggest win in NASL history by blitzing lowly San Jose 10-0.

Poor San Jose are bottom of the American Conference's Western Division with the worst record in the League. Coach Terry Fisher must now be wondering whether he's going to collect an unwanted "first" — the first man to be sacked twice in the same season.

He was given the boot by the Los Angeles Aztecs before jumping straight into the San Jose fire.

BIRMINGHAM MUST WAIT

BIRMINGHAM City had better not count on seeing Trevor Francis until the new season is well under-way.

Express are the first club to clinch a place in the play-offs and the way they're going, they could make it all the way to the Soccer Bowl on August 27th.

With just a few games left to go in the American Conference's Central Division, Francis' team held a 55 point lead over their nearest rivals.

AZTECS' president Larry Friend is known as "Larry Amigo" to the club's players. He got the nickname because he's been trying to solve the team's playing problems by signing Mexican players.

Fan trouble

HOOLIGANISM has hit American soccer. A linesman was hit by a rock during the Rochester Lancers' 2-1 home defeat by Toronto.

A bottle was also thrown on to the pitch and as a result, Rochester were given a heavy fine by the League and coach Dragan Popovic was banned from sitting on the bench.

It's a mystery why the League picked on Popovic unless they found that his touch-line coaching incited the fans. Anyway, he has now moved his operations to the back of the Press box.

Why Callaghan may now leave Liverpool

IAN CALLAGHAN'S (below) spell in America has helped him adjust to the thought of playing for someone other than Liverpool next season.

Although there will always be a



THE great debate over televised soccer has spread to this side of the Atlantic.

There's no nationally televised matches in the States anymore because the NASL weren't satisfied with the cash they were getting from CBS. But games are still beamed to the home town of away sides by local TV.

The critics claim the exposure is bad for the sport because the games aren't always that exciting. But for anyone with an ounce of knowledge of the game, the problem is not what you see but what you hear.

The commentators are so bad the only way to enjoy a game is with the sound knob turned to nought.

Travelling Man



YILMAZ Orhan (left), the Cypriot-born striker who had a spell at West Ham, is with his third American club in just over a year.

Orhan, who played for Hawaii last season, started this summer with Houston Hurricane. But now he's been transferred to San Diego Sockers, the pacesetters in the American Conference's Western Division.

Says Orhan: "It's a terrific move for me. They were mainly college kids at Houston and it wasn't easy to play. But they've a lot of experienced players in San Diego."

Orhan, who was a bit lightweight for the First Division, had offers to go elsewhere when West Ham told him there was no place for him last winter.

But he says: "I didn't fancy dropping down the League. It was the First Division or nothing for me. I'm much happier out here."

The striker scored two goals and two assists in seven games for the Hurricane this term, and was twice voted offensive player of the game.

Players against bigger goals

THE Americans have already changed the rules of soccer with their 35 yards offside line, sudden death overtime and the shoot-out system. But they seem to have dropped their idea of making the goal bigger.

Even the players are against it. Clyde Best, the ex-West Ham striker now playing for Portland Timbers says: "I'm not sure it would even make that much difference. Things have a habit of levelling out."

"I suppose at first you'd get a lot more shots but teams would adjust to prevent more goals being scored. Some of them might just use a more defensive policy, which would be worse for the game."

Best is doing well enough with the regular size goals. He's having his best season in the States.

NO SHOOT-OUTS

PHILADELPHIA Fury are the only side in the States who have never been involved in a shoot-out.

The system was introduced last season and the Fury, new to the League this summer, are the only side in 1978 not to go into a shoot-out.

DESPITE a rumour Rodney Marsh (below) might return to England to link up with his old pal Malcolm Allison at Plymouth, he continues to turn on the magic for Tampa Bay Rowdies.

As well as scoring goals, Rodnee is skipper and adviser to manager Gordon Jago.



Record Assists

ALAN Hinton, late of Derby County, broke the NASL's record for assists, or goal-making if you like, when he laid on one in Vancouver's 6-1 drubbing of Dallas.

For Hinton, who is also assistant-coach at the Whitecaps, it was his 19th assist of the season, beating George Best's 1977 total . . . But the record everyone wanted to see go was the winning home streak of the Cosmos. Sure enough after 23 without defeat New England beat them 3-1.

Mike Flanagan got one, as usual, to take his season's total to 28. Giorgio Chinaglia scored for the Cosmos, his 27th of the summer.

We analyse the prospects of clubs

IT'S STRANGE how a spot of summer sun, a complete break away from it all, can add up to a new life of fresh hope and fortune when football resumes its normal business.

Even a ten-week sojourn can spell the end of one era and the start of another in the eyes of most clubs. It matters not the players may be almost entirely the same, the fact is the holiday gives time for re-thinking, for new plans and above all renewed heart.

Nowhere is optimism greater than at the clubs where success is still fresh in the mind. Promotion has been achieved, now there are new mountains to conquer and none of them can be too steep.

That's a very necessary attitude of mind, of course, for faint hearts never won anything, but its worth recalling what happened during the 1977-78 season to those who were a rung higher on the ladder.

Nottingham Forest shattered even their own wildest dreams by scaling the tallest peak of all. To win the First Division title and the Football League Cup was not only an amazing achievement, it has given extra hope to all those following in their footsteps.

Their climbing companions Chelsea and Wolves did little more than survive. But at least they did that and will now look for consolidation.

The risers from Third to Second, Brighton, Mansfield and Palace had mixed fortunes, one top (well very nearly), one bottom and one middle.

Headlong

And from Fourth to Third Cambridge just about did a Nottingham Forest continuing their upwards march into Division Two, Colchester were almost as impressive without winning any honours, Exeter found a very straight road but Bradford City careered headlong back from whence they came.

So having seen that literally anything can happen to a promoted side what are the prospects for last season's climbers?

Without question the boldest and most ambitious of the lot are Tottenham Hotspur. To bolster their chances by jettling off to Argentina and picking up two of the world's newest stars was the most imaginative coup performed by a British club.

Oswaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa will be watched like hawks by the British footballing public and the Press in their early days at White Hart Lane, and even if Spurs' massive investment were to turn sour on them, they deserve credit for bringing glamour to the game.

With the much-less heralded arrival of a new centre-half (John Lacy from Fulham), Spurs should certainly be strong enough to hold their heads up in the First Division now.

They may still have to go to the bank manager to ask for money for a goalscorer, but it will be interesting to see how the promising likes of Glenn Hoddle and Chris Jones

mature alongside Ardiles and Villa.

We can't see Spurs doing a Forest, but they're going to entertain a lot of people.

Bolton's problem could be similar. They don't really score enough goals, relying heavily on Nell Whatmore, and while Frank Worthington and Alan Gowling have both proved themselves at the highest level in the past, neither was able to maintain a consistent scoring rate in later days at Leicester and Newcastle.

The Trotters should win enough of their home games to avoid trouble, and we believe the stage is now set for youngsters like Paul Jones and Peter Reid to make their mark.

As for Southampton they have a fine crop of youngsters headed by Steve Williams and Tony Funnell, but Lawrie McMenemy is going to have to manoeuvre his squad skillfully to keep Saints alive.

Defensively there are one or two question marks, and Ted MacDougall doesn't seem to have quite the killer instinct that used to be such a potent weapon against any side.

Alan Ball may have to work overtime in keeping Southampton ticking along, though The Dell is still one ground nobody likes to visit. We reckon Mr McMenemy could be spending quite heavily soon.

Now for the Second Division's new names, and what a pleasure to see Cambridge and Wrexham there for the very first time. Welcome back Preston, too.

Remarkably it's taken Cambridge only eight years to reach this lofty position. It's taken Wrexham 57 years — but of the two we're backing them to stay around a little longer.

Arfon Griffiths has forged one of

UPS and



Southampton's Steve Williams.

Mansfield found the experience just too much and we're afraid it could be a one-year switch for Cambridge as well.

Preston have more tradition on their side, and how it must gladden the heart of Tom Finney that they're on the way back up.

Even so life won't be easy for Nobby Stiles and his men. Having sold Mike Elwiss to Crystal Palace they'll be looking to Alex Bruce for the bulk of their goals, and he may find the task too much.

Preston don't give a lot away though, and because of that very crucial factor we take them to finish above the bottom three.

So to the teams who've made the vital leap away from the Fourth Division — Watford, Southend, Brentford and Swansea City.

A useful looking bunch who may all do better than survive in their new surroundings.

Certainly there may be nothing to stop the Watford steamroller ploughing straight through into the Second Division.

Graham Taylor's extraordinary ability to motivate previously ordinary-looking players into very good ones, has stood up well so far, and there is no reason why his own dynamism coupled with that of his flamboyant chairman Elton John should not take Watford to even greater heights.

Southend's manager Dave Smith, in a somewhat quieter fashion, has also achieved stirring things at Mansfield and Southend, and he is shrewd enough to capitalise on a sound all-round improvement at Roots Hall. He has bought well, and the club should go from strength to strength if not as spectacularly as Watford.

Brentford's joy ride was inspired by a tiny forward with dynamite in his boots — Steve Phillips. If he can maintain his phenomenal striking rate The Bees will have few worries.

Phillips is going to find life much tougher though, and of the promoted four we think they have the hardest fight on their hands.

As for Swansea it's amazing what a "name" can mean. The arrival of Welsh international John Toshack has put the Vetch Field on the map again.

The town is buzzing again, and talk of football fills the pubs and clubs.

If Toshack continues his partnership with sought-after striker Alan Curtis on the field, Swansea could even be headed for a quick return to the Second Division.

It's all in the melting pot now — but in nine months time life could be so very different for all these clubs.



Roger Joslyn scores the goal that clinched the Fourth Division Championship for Watford against Scunthorpe last season.

the most attractive sides outside the First Division, and those famous Cup victories over Bristol City and Newcastle were no flukes.

Unlike the First Division newcomers Wrexham should have few problems scoring goals. In Dixie McNeil, Graham Whittle and Bobby Shinton they have a trio of talented marksmen who can make their mark. Dai Davies and John

Roberts have added solidity to the defence and Micky Thomas is one of the best midfielders around.

All that should add up to another successful season at the Racecourse Ground with a final position in the top ten.

We'd like to think Cambridge could do just as well, but somehow they don't appear to hold so many aces.

promoted and relegated in 1977-78

SUCH is the way of the sporting world at the moment that when that great ignominy relegation is thrust upon the shoulders of a club it seems like the end of the world.

Yet the pain does not linger long. Already those clubs who suffered only a couple of months ago are looking forward to a new campaign with renewed hope.

The prospect of winning, albeit in less exalted company, can act as a

the days of Milburn, Scouler & Co again.

It's no good mourning the past though. Newcastle have to shed the blinkers and get down to the race.

If they roll up their sleeves it could end up as a straight fight between themselves and Sunderland for top spot — and how that would bring the crowds flooding back in the North-East which is crying out for more success.

DOWN

swift sweetener. The importance of winning should not be forgotten. 'Tis far better, many think, to be successful at a lower level than miserable at a higher strata.'

And so it is clubs like West Ham, Blackpool and Bradford City are considerably cheered already. The tears of May have dried. Smiles are returning and the world seems a far better place.

Of the trio that plunged into Division Two, it has to be said life will not be easy.

West Ham can look for comfort in the way neighbours Tottenham resurrected themselves. One year away from the top flight was sufficient. Now they are back with some of the most glittering stars in the game.

Mind you The Hammers may not be as well equipped as the Spurs anyway.

It has been said too many of the Upton Park boys did not have the heart for a fight when they strayed far out of London.

If that be the case what will they be like in cool, faraway places like Oldham, Sunderland and Blackburn.

Trevor Brooking's role has to be vital. If he can maintain the purpose which has been the one outstanding feature of life at West Ham these past five years, then hope springs eternal.

Brooking should have too much class for many a Second Division defence. It needs David Cross to convert the opportunities Brooking will carve for them for West Ham to emerge as genuine candidates for an immediate return.

And just as at Tottenham, the West Ham youngsters like Devonshire, Pike and Martin should pick up useful experience away from the more constant pressures of life at the top.

Newcastle have started by acquiring the expertise of Birmingham pair John Connolly and Terry Hibbitt (due for his second spell at St James' Park).

Bill McGarry knows he needs a top class striker if he is to bring First Division football back to these rightful owners. The standard of finishing on Tyneside last season was pathetic, and no one has yet got to the top without scoring goals.

In Barton, Scott, Walker and McGhee there is hope for the future, but how the Geordies must yearn for



Trevor Brooking of West Ham.

The third of the fallen Leicester City are again looking to a new manager. Last season it was Frank McLintock who went into a new season with fresh faces and ideas. Alas for him and the club the next nine months were disastrous.

Now Jock Wallace from Rangers is charged with the responsibility of bringing success back to Filbert Street.

He has the reputation of being a man for a scrap. He has brought glory back to Ibrox, but our feeling is he may have to wait a while at Leicester.

Such was the manner of relegation Leicester's confidence hit rock bottom. The slightest deviation from success in the Second Division will again raise questions in the minds of players who haven't known too many bonus

pay days recently.

Youngsters like Williams, May, Sims and Goodwin have had a hard baptism. They may need a year or two, just as the new blood at Sunderland did, to find their feet again.

The drop from First to Second is bad enough for most, but for Blackpool's players demotion to the Third must seem tragic.

The probability of life in the Third never occurred almost until it happened. It must have come as a sickening and stunning blow to players who for much of the season had been thinking about the First and not the Third Division.

Still, bitter as that pill has been to swallow, the Seaside have to get down to accepting the fact they are in the Third Division, and rubbing shoulders with Lincoln instead of Liverpool.

Understandably Blackpool's best players do not fancy languishing so low in the League, and without them The Tangerines will be hard pushed to rectify last season's error.

Mansfield's brief excursion into the Second Division was an education if not altogether an enjoyable one.

Billy Bingham has sampled the rigours of the Third before and will have his ideas of how to get out again.

There are some talented players at Field Mill not least Gordon Hodgson, John Miller and new signing Russell Allen from Tranmere, but it may be too much to ask them to go up again on the yo-yo.

As for Hull City they seem to suffer like so many from lack of penetration, and unfortunately for them Smash and Grab, or Bannister and Warboys to give them their real names, seem to have run out of steam since their scoring exploits at Bristol.



Mansfield (dark shirt) were relegated from the Second after only one season.

With Peter Daniel going to Wolves and John Hawley to Leeds, The Tigers will be lacking two strong teeth.

And surely just as significant is the retirement of that great little fighter Billy Bremner.

Hull do have some promising youngsters like goalkeeper Edwin Blackburn, defender Paul Haigh and Dave Stewart but they won't find anybody in the Third giving them easy points.

Of the four clubs who plummeted in to the lowest Division of all —

Bradford City, Hereford, Portsmouth and Port Vale — three have got relatively new managers.

Bradford's John Napier took over too late to halt the slide, but he has shown considerable ambition by signing players of the quality of Paul Reaney and David McNiven from Leeds United and Mick Wood, from Blackburn.

As a city Bradford has been starved of success for so long, it must seem as though those halcyon days will never return.

Each time either City or the old Park Avenue managed to get out of the Fourth, they seemed to slip straight back and so it was last season. Now City as the sole survivors have to fly the flag again, but they may find success eludes them once more.

Port Vale relied heavily on Ken Beamish for goals last season and paid the consequences. He found no support.

Dennis Butler must find someone capable of sharing the load and again we can't really see Vale making sufficient impact to go straight back.

Hereford paid the penalty of allowing that prolific goalscorer Dixie McNeil to move on to Wrexham, and until they find an adequate replacement they too may be committed to life in the Fourth longer than they would like.

Portsmouth's story must be the saddest in the whole of football.

A club with enormous potential they have allowed the rot to set in, and slipping from the First Division to the Fourth in just over 20 years has been a painful process for the supporters.

Admittedly Huddersfield's demise has been more dramatic but when one remembers the great Pompey side of

the past, with Jimmy Scouler, Jimmy Dickinson and Jack Froggatt it doesn't bear thinking about the present situation.

Like Hereford, Portsmouth allowed a regular goalscorer in David Kemp to leave, and they could rue that decision... however it may have been necessitated by the desire for extra cash.

Goalscorers today are a rare commodity, and without another Kemp, Portsmouth like the other three relegated clubs may have to stay in their new environment.

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1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1..... 200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3..... 200ft/400ft

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

1963 Spurs 5, At. Madrid 1..... 200ft
1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0..... 200ft

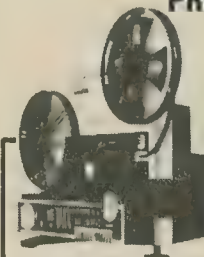
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1971 Spurs 2, Aston V. 0..... 50ft
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A HAPPY WELCOME FOR ENGLAND'S THIRD ARGENTINIAN!



A good luck kiss
from 19-year-old
United fan Lynne
Smith.



Sabella with new team-mates Mick Spaight
(left) and Alan Woodward.

While Spurs' captures Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa have grabbed most of the headlines, Sheffield United manager Harry Haslam also went to the land of the World Champions to sign Alejandro Sabella. He cost £75,000 from River Plate and while he doesn't have the international status of the Spurs stars — he could turn out to be a bargain. As our pictures show, Bramall Lane fans gave Sabella a tremendous and very warm welcome.



Sheffield supporters clamour to shake hands
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THREE NEW SIGNINGS WHO COULD

JOHN HAWLEY — HULL CITY TO LEEDS Resembles an 'early' Joe Jordan

JOHN Hawley, Leeds United's new £70,000 striker from Hull City, is hoping that he will be polishing a football trophy or two before the end of his first season in the First Division.

Jimmy Armfield's last major signing before his hurried departure from Elland Road, the 24-year-old Humbersider has suddenly found himself poised for an early taste of the big-time.

Within weeks of his arrival at Leeds goal ace Allan Clarke left to take over as player-manager at Barnsley, leaving the club critically short of experienced strikers.

So Hawley, bought by Armfield as a long-term prospect and initially destined for a spell in the Central League side, is almost certain to make his first team debut much earlier than intended.

Especially as big Ray Hankin, top scorer with 21 goals last winter, is suspended for the opening game of the season — against Arsenal at Highbury.

Careraker-manager Maurice Lindley, who helped to persuade his former boss to sign Hawley, has a high regard for the newcomer's qualities.

"I've an idea John will do well with us," says Lindley, who is taking the opportunity of experimenting with the Hankin-Hawley spearhead during Leeds' three-match pre-season tour of West



Germany and Holland.

"I watched him a few times last season and he impressed me with his style. He's big, quick, hustles defenders into making mistakes and his style reminds me a lot of Joe Jordan during his early days at Elland Road.

"Obviously he has a lot to learn — he's never played in the First Division, of course — but he strikes me as a lad who could go places in the right set-up. I think he'll be a success feeding off Ray or alternatively, acting as target man for him."

Six-footer

Hawley, a fair-haired, moustachioed six-footer, admits the thought of making his mark in the top sphere in a season which could well have seen him in the Third Division had Armfield not whisked him away from Boothferry Park is a thrilling prospect.

"Last season was miserable for me," he recalls. "I suffered a bad chest injury in a goalmouth fall at the start of the campaign, and although I returned to action late in the winter I played in midfield and that position doesn't really appeal to me.

"I like to score goals and get involved in the hurly-burly of life in the opposition's penalty-area."

Hawley, the only bachelor in the Leeds first team pool, spends nearly all his spare-time helping his father to run an antiques shop in his native Beverley, not far from Hull.

"I grew up with antiques all around me so my interest has been there since childhood," he explains. "I enjoy handling the ex-



"Ray Hankin (above) is quicker than he's given credit for," says John Hawley.

quisite objects and am grateful my partnership with Dad provides me with a hobby that is both absorbing and profitable.

"I wouldn't like anyone to think

BOB ILES — WEYMOUTH TO CHELSEA All he needs is Expert Coaching



CHELSEA, so hard-up their existence was threatened a couple of years ago, found themselves in the unusual position of having some money to spend recently.

It was only £10,000 — hardly enough to cause the Governor of the Bank of England to have any sleepless nights.

But to Chelsea, staggering under the burden of a frightening £3m debt — it was a fortune. For the last time they were able to buy a player was back in 1974, when they gave Celtic £250,000 for international David Hay.

Chelsea boss Ken Shellito spent that £10,000 on Bob Iles — a 22-year-old goalkeeper from Southern League Weymouth. And everybody connected with the South Coast club is convinced they have got a bargain.

Shellito had to move smartly to snap up Iles. In fact he broke into his summer holiday to make sure the deal went through.

For a growing number of clubs —



Millwall and Torquay among them — were showing an increasing interest in Iles.

Weymouth will get an extra £5,000 when Iles has played 15 first team games. And they are confident they will collect that money in the coming season.

Graham Carr, boss of the Southern League club, explains: "Bob has got everything it takes to be a success in the game. What he needs now is coaching by an expert in the art of goalkeeping — and he will certainly get that from Peter Bonetti at Stamford Bridge.

"I'm sure he'll flourish under Peter's guidance and will be knocking on the first team door very quickly."

Iles always dreamed of becoming a professional footballer and took the first steps along what he hoped would be the road to stardom when he joined Bournemouth as an apprentice.

But the Dean Court club ran into financial difficulties and were forced to scrap their reserve and youth teams. Iles was one of the players who had to go and he joined neighbouring Poole Town.

After two years there he joined Weymouth at the start of last season

Peter Bonetti (left) should be a great influence on Iles.

SOON BE CAPTURING THE HEADLINES

I'm an expert in antiques — I've a lot to learn before I can apply for a job at Sothebys — but I'm learning all the time and getting a lot of pleasure while I'm doing it."

But now he is part of the Leeds set-up. Hawley wants to dedicate himself to becoming a better player. "Jimmy Armfield, who I was sorry to see leave, has given me my big chance. I don't want to throw it away."

"I'm prepared to train morning and afternoon to achieve my ambition of becoming a regular first teamer." To enable him to do this he has sold his flat on Humberside and is moving to Leeds.

He is hoping to learn from playing alongside Hankin. "Until I began training at Elland Road in mid-July I'd only watched him on television, but I've been tremendously impressed with him on the training ground," he says admiringly.

"He takes some stopping when he has the ball and he's quicker than he's given credit for. And his heading is out of this world. If I can't learn from him then I don't deserve to be a professional footballer."

Ask John Hawley his own greatest asset and the reply comes back with devastating swiftness: "I'm always willing to learn. I am quite prepared to listen."

That quality should stand him in good stead during the next few months as he seeks to establish himself as an important member of the Elland Road set-up.

Besides trying to convince the new manager of his ability as a player he's conscious of the fact he owes it to former boss Jimmy Armfield to prove he was a worthwhile signing.

and helped them finish second in the League and to the Final of the Southern League Cup.

"He did a great job for us and naturally we would have liked to have kept him here," said Carr.

"But being realistic we knew we would have to let him go if a good offer came along. It would not have been fair to the lad to hold him back."

"It was obvious only a First Division club could afford to sign him. Not many others would have been in a position to pay him the money he was earning here, plus his salary as a civil servant."

"And he was really sold on Chelsea when we allowed him to go on a close-season tour to Norway with them. The experiences he got then convinced him they were the club for him."

"They watched him for long enough, before finally making their move. A variety of scouts had a look — then Ken Shellito and Chelsea's general manager, Ron Suart, came to see him for themselves."

"They finally decided he was the man they wanted — and got things under way."

"It's a decision I'm sure they will never regret. He's set for a bright future in the game and I expect him to make a big impact at Chelsea — and quickly."

KEVIN SHEEDY — HEREFORD TO LIVERPOOL Has the trade marks of a Great Player

IN THE days when Bill Shankly was known throughout the length and breadth of soccerdom as the "Laird of Anfield," one of the things that endeared him to the "Kop" was his fondness for raiding Third and Fourth Division backyards, and emerging with a future Liverpool giant in exchange for the sort of money that was strictly 'bargain basement.'

Now, Bob Paisley, the modest, amiable "Geordie" who took over Shankly's command with such stunning success, reckons he has unearthed another prospective Anfield ace in 18-year-old Kevin Sheedy, his £80,000 buy from Fourth Division Hereford.

The Welsh-born laddie with the Irish name and a skill that could wrap him in the trappings of tomorrow's stardom, became a Hereford player at 16. Two years later he was a first team regular, earning praise like this from his manager, John Sillett: "I can't see anything stopping this boy from going straight to the top. When he joined us at 16, it didn't take me long to realise here was a youngster of terrific potential."

"Kevin's a left-sided midfielder who always seems to have all the time in the world to do exactly what he wants with the ball, the trademark of the great player. Of course, the lad has a lot to learn, and, like most of the talented kids in this game who went on to become household names, he is ready to listen, and put into practice what we've preached."

"Kevin is at his best coming through with the ball, and there are times when he gets caught in 'no man's land,' but that is something experience will iron out. The boy is ambitious, level-headed, and brimming with talent."

"There is no way we can keep him here, and to even think about it would be unfair. One of the top clubs in the country made an offer for him before he was old enough to sign professional forms, but I felt it would be to Kevin's advantage if he began learning his trade at Hereford, and his splendid progress proved me right."

That progress had also been impressive enough to attract the attention of Bob Paisley, a manager who had never been slow to voice his appreciation of the highly promising youngsters flourishing in the tough, unspectacular surroundings of the lower Divisions.

Remembering how Ray Clemence and Kevin Keegan, a couple of "unknowns" from Scunthorpe United, and an up-and-coming full-back from Northampton, called Phil Neal, had rocketed to Liverpool and England fame, Paisley backed his hunch about the



Hereford starlet with a firm offer the club accepted.

When the European Cup-holders and the team that fell into the Fourth Division last season agreed terms, the young man who could one day be an Anfield hero waited before adding his signature to the form that made him a Liverpool player. He explains why.

"It was suggested at the time I made Liverpool wait before I signed, just to show I wasn't going to be rushed into anything, not even by the European Cup-winners. In fact, the truth is, I was so dazed and overawed by a club like Liverpool wanting me, I couldn't think straight! I had to ask

for time to think it over, simply because Mr. Paisley's bid for me came right out of the blue. I signed the following day, still finding it hard to believe I was bound for Anfield."

"I want to get to the top, and I know I'll get every chance to achieve this with this great club. It hasn't really sunk in I'll be training and playing with some of the biggest names in soccer. I only hope I can justify Mr. Paisley's faith in me."

Former Southampton and England forward, Terry Paine, who coached Sheedy at Hereford, is just as optimistic as John Sillett regarding kid Kevin's future in the game.

"The lad's a wonderful prospect," says Terry, "and he has his feet firmly on the ground. Even as a 16-year-old, he looked special. Always wanting the ball, and knowing exactly what to do with it

when he had it. Already he has that touch of authority all the really good ones have."

"To play consistently well for a struggling side as Kevin did last season, reflected the boy's character. He's the type of player who should do well with a club like Liverpool. Excellent in the air, a hard tackler, and shows all the confidence and skill in the world when pushing forward with the ball. And he's got that other great asset Bob Paisley looks for in a player — courage."

"I'm delighted Kevin has gone to a club of Liverpool's standing in world football. Of course, he has faults, like any other 18-year-old, however gifted, but Bob Paisley and his back-room staff will soon smooth out those rough edges. He's got a great future ahead of him, with a marvellous club whose fans are just as famous as the team they inspire. I think one day Kevin Sheedy will give the 'Kop' plenty to sing about."

At 5ft. 10ins. and around 10st., the latest recruit to Paisley's crack troops looks finely-drawn, but he is wiry, and, as any of the Third Division "heavies" who occasionally sought to put their "stamp" on him, will confess, can look after himself very well indeed.

It seems highly probably this Welsh youth international will, before he is twenty, win the first of what could be a string of full caps for his country, and become as big a star as that other Kevin he hopes to follow up the Anfield heights.



Terry Paine (right) believes Kevin Sheedy has enough confidence to make it at Liverpool

ASKED — just a year or so ago — which soccer area of England would provide the bulk of the glory . . . and, almost instinctively, one would have suggested the North in general. And Lancashire in particular.

But, just as Sir Harold Wilson once said a week was a long time in politics . . . so (as a firm Huddersfield supporter) he'd certainly agree that a year — in soccer — is a bit longer. With a lot of changes, and shifts in emphasis.

Like the doings of Brian Clough, and his Midlands marauders, for a start. Can they repeat, in 1978-79, the likes of what they accomplished in 1977-78?

Look what happened then. Nottingham Forest had barely squeezed into Division One in third promotion place — and had looked least likely of the three to set the League alight.

Instead of which — admittedly helped by some very effective transfer dabbling — they romped away with the League title by a massive seven-point margin, and picked up the League Cup as well.

On that performance — and with *that* bloke in charge! — is anyone going to suggest it was a mere flash in the pan, and they won't be up amongst the front-runners all along the line again this term?

Unfortunately for the Midlands, the rest of their teams didn't do much more than bask in Forest's reflected local glory.

Conclusion

Leicester had a disastrous time, with relegation to the Second Division a foregone conclusion most of the season. New manager Jock Wallace — fresh from a Scottish "Treble" — will need more than a term to get his new club anywhere near the smooth Rangers machine he's just left.

And another Midlands' relegation saw Mansfield finding the Second Division pace too hot.

Villa disappointed after their promise of the previous year, but Coventry (all but relegated then) and West Bromwich evened things up with great strides ahead. And even Birmingham, after a dismal start, picked up nicely once go-ahead new manager Jim Smith had sorted some problems out.

Then there's always Tommy Docherty. If internal rumblings can be settled quickly, Derby County could build on some of the promise shown at times last term . . . like that late-season 4-2 hammering of the European Champions.

Lower down the scale, too, keep an eye on Walsall. Under Dave Mackay, they enjoyed an excellent season last-time-out without quite managing the final hurdle to take them to promotion.

Forest will surely point their way, but an overall Midlands revival — after some seasons in the doldrums — could be somewhere in the pipeline.

Inevitably, they'll find the North-West hot on their tails.

Liverpool had a "disastrous" domestic season — they "only" finished runners-up in the League and League Cup to add to their Euro glory!

All the same, headmaster Bob

SHOOT'S Soccer

SUNSHINE FOR THE NORTH~WEST AND EAST ANGLIA...

Paisley will probably write "Must do better" on his pupils' reports — and you can bet they will!

Everton were just pipped by their rivals to runners-up spot in the League, but showed some good performances only blotted by surprise inconsistency.

But two 6-0 League victories at home — plus two more of 5-1 away — shows they can't be taken lightly by anyone.

And with money seemingly not much of a deterrent at Goodison, they're not likely to be put off by cost from strengthening the side further if they can.

Manchester City, too, ran neatly into fourth place, and — though that was personally disappointing to manager Tony Book, who'd been plotting more — it's well on the cards he'll achieve it this term. A recent £350,000 for Luton's brilliant young Paul Futcher will help plug any defensive gaps.

And neighbours United? Surely tenth spot in the table won't satisfy them again, and every effort will be made to improve considerably on it.

A reported £850,000 was laid out on just a couple of players in the second half of last season and, though cash doesn't guarantee instant success, it wouldn't say much for the judgment of manager Sexton if the dividends didn't start paying-out before too long.

A couple of promoted sides also did the North-West a power of good last season — and seem geared to build on it.

Tragedy

But, sadly for Lancashire, the new success of two "old-time greats" — Bolton becoming Second Division Champs, and nearby Preston getting promoted from the Third — was offset by the tragedy of Blackpool dropping to the Third for the first time in their long history; Rochdale finishing-up 92nd out of 92 clubs; and Southport being axed from the League altogether . . . even if ambitious fellow-Lancastrians Wigan did get their place.

Leeds carry the Yorkshire flag — but, last term, that didn't count for much. So much so that, at the end of it, the highly-respected Jimmy Armfield got the chop as manager.

Hopefully their old star, shrewd Jack Charlton, can edge-up Sheffield Wednesday to a setting more appropriate to their standing — not forgetting one of the best grounds in the land — than the Third Division.

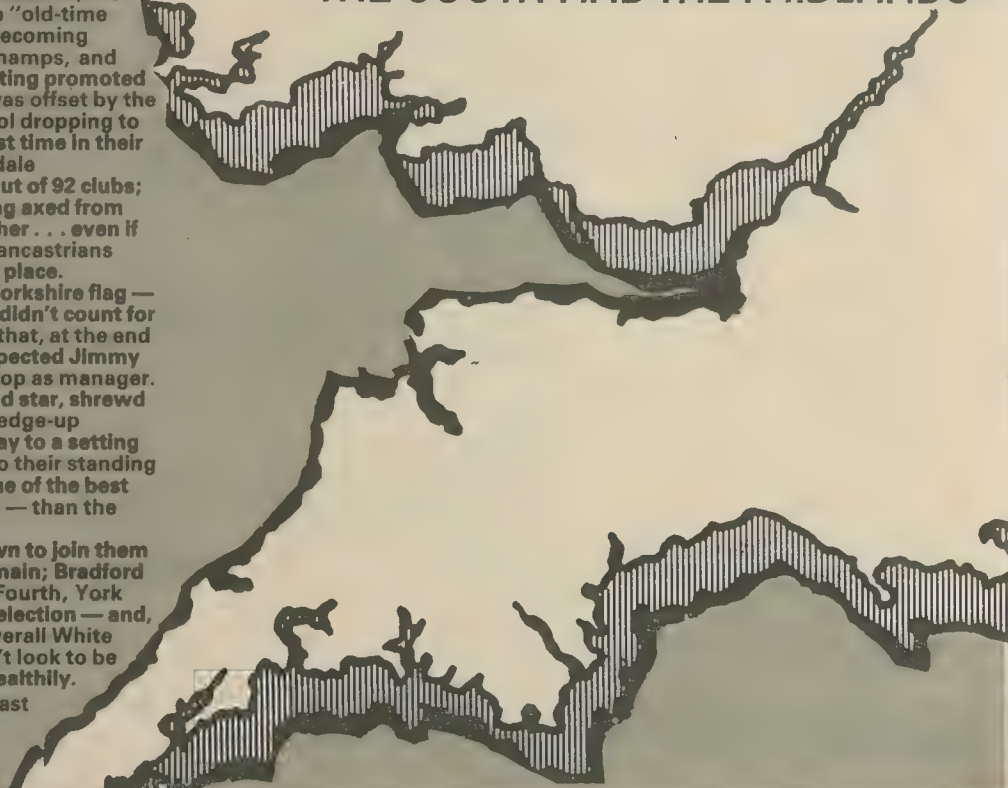
Hull dropped down to join them in their present domain; Bradford City slipped to the Fourth, York had to apply for re-election — and, by and large, the overall White Rose picture doesn't look to be blooming all that healthily.

As for London, last season certainly wasn't a capital one!



Liverpool (dark shirts) will aim to improve on last season. Birmingham (light shirts) could boost the Midlands by continuing their revival under Jim Smith.

BRIGHT SPELLS FOR LONDON, THE SOUTH AND THE MIDLANDS



Forecast For 1978-79...

GLOOM FOR THE NORTH-EAST...

Middlesbrough (Tony McAndrew in action) are the only First Division club in the North-East. Only a massive improvement will brighten up that area.



Arsenal promised a lot — and then failed dismally to deliver the goods when they got to Wembley — yet were far and away the best side around the region.

But, sadly for the purists, popular West Ham at last dropped to the Second — and, up until the last few games, it was quite on the cards Q.P.R. and Chelsea could be the two to accompany them down.

That was, to some extent, offset by promotions for Spurs (back to the top-flight first-time-out) and Brentford from the Fourth.

The Second Division saw some fine, but unhappily inconsistent, form from Palace — but a bright young manager like Terry Venables, with a lively stock of youngsters coming along, is sure to be working hard to try and put things on the right road towards a serious promotion-bid.

At the other end, there must surely be improvement from Orient — despite reaching the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals — Millwall, and Charlton... all of whom were in some danger of relegation almost until the last game.

outclassed everyone else by finishing fully 11 points ahead of them.

It fully vindicated chairman Elton John's decision to appoint Graham Taylor to possibly the highest-paid managership outside the First Division — and this dynamic duo doesn't look to be short on more successes to come.

Numerically, East Anglia doesn't have many clubs — but last season those few showed signs of form which could well be maintained.

Ipswich, for once, weren't amongst the front-runners in the League — ending, in fact, right on the relegation fringe.

But after promising so much, and actually fulfilling so little, for some time... Bobby Robson's "country cousins" deservedly took the F.A. Cup for the first time in their history.

Cambridge, too, were promoted to the Second Division — only eight years after being elected to the League.

Colchester at one time looked like joining Cambridge — while, back in the First, Norwich revealed

premature signs of better tidings to come.

East Anglia — for all its apparent limited resources — might provide a shock or two next season, too.

They used to say, in the North-East, "Whistle down any pit, and a ruddy good football team will come oop t'shaft!" Sadly, those days — at least, for the time being — have gone, and Newcastle's dreary relegation to the Second Division (coupled with Sunderland's failure to take their place) just about summed it all up.

Middlesbrough are still left as First Division representa-

tives of the region — but, short of a massive improvement on last season, hardly seem likely to set it on fire.

There wasn't a great deal on for the West Country last term — and may not be again next — but Wales had a few things going for them.

Wrexham moved up into the Second Division for the first time in their history, and could before long even be challenging for a place in the First.

And Swansea — boosted by John Toshack as player-manager — should more than hold their own in the Third Division.

But, if it's real super-soccer you're wanting this new season, then there's no need to look too much further afield than the established North-West — plus, at least in parts, the brash new challengers from the Midlands.

Left: Breezy Brighton (stripes) should be in the promotion hunt again. Bolton (dark shirts) did the North-West a power of good. Right: Paul Mariner's Ipswich, F.A. Cup winners last May, hope to bring more honours to their region.



But, unless Arsenal can really put it together, it would take a brave man to predict epoch-making triumphs from the London area this new season.

Further South, there were mixed fortunes last term — and the same may well be in store this time.

Deservedly, Southampton got back to the First, and breezy Brighton — heartbreakingly squeezed-out on goal-difference from achieving two successive promotions — could be making another big bid to join them.

But, a little further along the coast, Portsmouth — twice proud League Champions since the War — continued slumping deeper and deeper by plunging into the Fourth Division.

Southend gained promotion, and Aldershot just missed-out — but the real highspot of the Fourth Division were Watford, who





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says Peter Shilton, of Nottingham Forest & England, PFA Player of the Year

THE paths of two of London's most famous clubs crossed at the end of last season, as West Ham slid into the Second Division, while Tottenham Hotspur moved up to take their place in the First. Here, the captains of both sides, Billy Bonds and Steve Perryman, talk about the aims of their respective clubs in the season ahead.

'Unfamiliar away grounds could settle fate'

BILLY BONDS *West Ham*



NATURALLY It was a bitter disappointment to us all at Upton Park to be relegated after being a First Division side for 20 years.

But from the attitude of everyone concerned during our pre-season training, no one intends staying in Division Two a minute longer than they have to.

We're out to emulate teams of latter years like Wolves, Manchester United and Spurs, who got back into Division One at their first attempt.

People say the longer you stay down, the harder promotion becomes. We don't really want to find out whether that's true or not.

Our manager, John Lyall, had us back from the summer break a week earlier than usual, to concentrate on some special training, including weight sessions, and speed and stamina work. And there wasn't a single moan about it. Which, to me at least, indicates everyone was suitably keyed up and couldn't wait to get cracking with the job in hand.

We all fervently believe West Ham's rightful place is in the First Division. But no one is going to hand us promotion on a plate, that's for sure.

I played in the Second Division 11 years ago with Charlton, and I don't think it's changed much over the years. I know full well just how tough it can be down there. A few of the other lads have had similar experience to me, too, and we've all been at pains to point out to some of the others, who've known nothing other than First Division football, that it'll be no picnic.

I also know some people say we're going to struggle if we try to play our own brand of cultured football. But I don't agree with

that.

Spurs showed last season that skill, so long as it's supplemented by hard work, can reap its reward. The Tottenham lads played some delightful stuff, and I'd like to wish Steve Perryman and his team all the very best.

We hope to make their successful formula work for us, too.

Besides, we're not the soft touch some people would have you believe. We can take care of ourselves when the situation demands it.

Over the past few years we've had to battle hard to escape relegation. And, in a strange sort of way, it's conditioned us to playing under intense pressure.

We can put that kind of experience to good use. Only this time, it'll be pressure of life at the top of a Division, I hope.

Obviously we're going to find a big difference when we go to places like Oldham and Cambridge, with all due respect to them, of course, and play in front of just a few thousand people, instead of the swaying, chanting masses at Old Trafford or Anfield.

That's when we'll need all our powers of self motivation to see us through.

I know our record against smaller, lesser known clubs has been pretty indifferent over the years. But it's something we've got to come to terms with. Away games like that will be make or break for us. It's where promotion will be won or lost.

A good start is going to be vital, too. We've got a terrifically loyal crowd at Upton Park, and if we can get them behind us early on, with a few good results, it'll be a great foundation for us to build on.

Naturally, I was delighted when Trevor Brooking decided to stay. We can ill afford to lose players of his quality, particularly at a time like this.

Trev's form has been out of this world over the last few seasons, and it's going to be very difficult for him to keep up the standard he's set himself.

But even if he plays at 75 per cent of what he has been, it'll be enough for me.

It's good to see the youngsters like Paul Brush and Alvin Martin coming through as well, slotting in nicely with the more experienced players.

They are obviously going to play a big part in the future of the club. And that future, hopefully, will be back in the First Division.

'New faces — obstacles we must overcome'

STEVE PERRYMAN *Spurs*

I SAID before the start of last season I could sense something special in the air down at White Hart Lane, and I detect a similar sort of atmosphere this time.

We believe the Cockerel which once crowed proudly over the ground is beginning to find its voice again.

Our most recent experiences in the First Division weren't particularly happy ones, I know, because we were struggling to stay afloat. But this time we're going back to prove ourselves.

Last season we worked tremendously hard to regain our own self respect. Now we're out to show we can do it in the toughest League in the world.

Although, in the end we may have only just scraped up, at the expense of Brighton, I believe we played really well through the season as a whole, and fully justified our promotion.

Naturally, the spotlight will be well and truly on us, mainly because people will want to see how our two Argentinian stars shape up.

But I'm sure we can cope with the pressures that kind of attention might bring. We grew up an awful lot last term, you know. Now's the chance for us to prove it.

The influx of new players not only strengthens the squad, but also increases the competition for places inside the club. And surely that can only be a good thing in the long term.

Obviously, the new lads will have to settle in. That's always an obstacle to overcome. Look how Manchester United went through an indifferent patch when Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan first joined them. And they are Scots, who didn't pose a language problem, like our two lads.

But we hope we've eliminated most of the difficulties that might arise, in our pre-season games.

We adopted a particular pattern of play last season, building our attacks by playing the ball right through the team, and not pumping long, hopeful balls to our front men. And clearly we wouldn't want to depart from what turned out to be a successful formula.

But we're certainly not a machine, by any manner of means. We've got some very talented individuals, like Glenn Hoddle and Neil McNab, so we're more than capable of adapting our style if and when it's necessary.

Like every other side in the Division,



sion, we'll be looking to get off to a good start. But we couldn't have been dealt a tougher opening programme than facing Nottingham Forest then Liverpool in our first two away games.

Still, we've got to play them sometime, so it might as well be sooner than later.

Quite a yard-stick to measure ourselves against. And who's to say we won't pick up a couple of good results, anyway. What a start that would give us.

I'm not going to be foolish enough to try to predict where we'll finish up in the Division. Obviously our number one priority is to establish ourselves as a genuine First Division side. We've got to learn to live with the best again. Then we can really set our sights on re-stocking that famous Spurs trophy cabinet again.

Of course, being a Londoner, I'm sorry West Ham slipped out of the First Division last season. We've had some stirring battles in our time, and I hope we'll meet again before long, in the First, of course.

But my advice to Billy Bonds and his lads is simple.

You must work just as hard as your opponents in every game. Do that, and then your skill will get the chance to show through, and that's when you'll be able to make it count.

YOUNG BOSSES

THERE'S a common tie-up between all these managers: Graham Taylor (Watford), John Napier (Bradford City), Jimmy Lawson (Halifax Town), Bobby Smith (Port Vale) and Mike Summerbee (Stockport County). All are younger than some of the players on their pay-roll. Taylor is 33, so is Smith. Napier is 31 and Lawson 30.

ALL CHANGE IN Ulster — Almost!

THERE have been no fewer than eight managerial changes in Northern Ireland soccer in the past year or so:—

CLUB	EX-BOSS	CURRENT BOSS
Ards	Billy Humphries	Joe Kinkead
Ballymena U.	Eddie Russell	Billy Johnston
Bangor	Billy Neill	Jim Emery
Coleraine	Ivan Murray	Vic Hunter
Crusaders	Billy Johnston	Norman Pavis
Distillery	Roy Welsh	Gibby McKenzie
Glentoran	Bobby McGregor	Arthur Stewart
Portadown	Gibby McKenzie	Bertie Neill

But no change at Linfield, Cliftonville, Glenswallow, and Larne, where Roy Coyle, Jackie Hutton, Alan Campbell, and Brian Halliday, respectively, have been in control for several seasons.

CUP FINAL REF RAPPED

CONTROVERSY over the handling of the F.A.I. Cup Final in which Shamrock Rovers beat Sligo Rovers 1-0, thanks to a disputed penalty three minutes after the half-time whistle should have blown, still rages.

After hearing the report of Referee Inspector "Pip" Meighan, the F.A.I. Referees' Committee have slapped a three-month suspension on the four officials involved in the match.

But it is not their conduct on the field that has led to the unprecedented course of action. FIFA and UEFA referee John Carpenter and his assistants Brendan Coyne, Jim McKenna and Sean Kinsella have been "demoted" to controlling Leinster Senior League games for their suspension period, for overstaying their welcome at a pre-Cup Final get-together of officials the night before the big game.

Refs traditionally leave the function before midnight. But the four suspended officials remained on till 2.30 a.m., and in view of the importance of their assignment, the committee took a serious view of this.

Kick-Off Gates

OFFICIALDOM will be checking closely on crowd figures for the opening day of the Football League season on August 19th. Last year's total of 395,612 compared with a return of 629,815 in 1976.

Back in 1973 the first Saturday pulled in 642,555.

NOT TALKING

NEW Celtic manager Billy McNeill is staying quiet, but he has already put in two big-money bids for established stars in a bid to lift the Parkhead side.

Says Billy: "I only want two players of genuine class at Celtic and there aren't a lot of them around."

'HOT' FROST

LEE Frost, 20-year-old Chelsea winger, had to wait until near the end of last season (1977-78) before making his League debut, but he's really a pretty slick customer. London-born Lee is, in fact, the fastest sprinter on the Stamford Bridge books. Before he joined Chelsea, he trained at West Ham, Crystal Palace and Queens Park Rangers.

WOLVES' RAFFERTY OUT TO PROVE COVENTRY WRONG

WOLVES had to pay out £125,000 to sign Bill Rafferty (right) — and that must have made long-time Carlisle stalwart Dick Young smile.

Young signed Rafferty from Plymouth for £20,000 in May, 1976, during a period when he was in charge at Brunton Park.

At the time, Young said: "He will rate as the buy of the year. He's a good goalscorer with plenty of experience. I couldn't have spent the money better."

Wolves had to cough up another £105,000 to get the striker who has also seen service at Coventry and Blackpool.

The 27-year-old Rafferty is particularly keen to prove Coventry wrong. He was a professional at Highfield Road for just over three years and says: "I still don't think Coventry gave me a fair chance."

Rafferty, a strong and forceful player who always makes himself available for a pass, could have a better chance to prove himself at the top class.

He will be linking up with John Richards, one of the best forwards in the First Division, and should not lack for opportunities once the pair have built up an understanding.



THE Football League Cup, which gets away to a first-leg First Round start on Saturday, August 12, is in danger of losing its early appeal.

The 28 matches involve all the Third and Fourth Division clubs and eight from the Second, but gates have slumped to 125,696 last season for the Saturday matches. That contrasts with figures around the 200,000 mark for straight knockout midweek games at the beginning of the Seventies.

SEND every young goalkeeper in the country to study Peter Shilton. That's the advice of Scotland's World Cup skipper Bruce Riech.

Says hot-shot Bruce: "I look at him and search for a weakness — but I can't find one and no one else seems to either."

Every club in the country should send their young keepers to spend a week at Forest learning from him. He is absolutely terrific."



COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

FREE PROGRAMMES

YORK CITY, relegated from the Second Division in 1976 and the next year relegated again to the Fourth, are now under the lively chairmanship of Michael Sinclair.

This young successful businessman, aged 36, is kicking-off the new season with a bright idea which many other clubs should consider following — he is providing everyone who goes through the York turnstiles with a free match day programme.

The cost of the new designed, two coloured programme which will fit snugly into the pocket, will be recouped from advertising.

As the Secretary, Mr Teasdale, explained: "There will be up to 4,000 programmes free at each match. Instead of selling one programme per three supporters at afternoon matches, and one per four supporters at evening matches, this way everyone will get one and the advertisers will know they are going to reach a wider public."

"And of course, everyone will be able to read the club news. If our attendance should drop at any game then the programmes won't be wasted . . . we will be able to swap them with other clubs or hold some for our supporters who missed the match."

It certainly seems York have come up with a great idea and with the signing of seven new players — and there cannot be many clubs who can boast such an influx — there shouldn't be many programmes spare at York this season.

Reading 'SHOOT' in Finland

Brian Talbot, John Hollins, Bryan Hamilton and Kit Carson flew out to Helsinki recently with the C&G Super Soccer Club U-14 and U-16 England teams to compete in the Helsinki Cup. The C&G teams selected from boys attending the C&G Soccer Schools and Colleges reached the Quarter-Finals in the U-14 section and the U-16's lost to the Iraq National team in the Semi-Finals.

SHOOT is a popular paper in Finland and here the U-14's take time off from playing to read a recent issue.



SCOTLAND'S latest "export" is 14-year-old Alex Whyte of Scotland Boys Club in Glasgow.

Regarded by many as one of the finest winger prospects for years, Alex is spending a week's trial with Bristol Rovers this month.

He has already attracted the attention of Rangers, Celtic, Partick Thistle and Manchester City, but set his heart on Rovers.

In fact, the entire Under-15 team from the Scotland Boys Club will be guests at Eastville in September. Among the lads making the trip will be Nikki Paccitti. Sixteen in October, Nikki has nine clubs chasing his signature. Rovers are sure to offer him terms if he plays well enough against them next month.

● Manchester United are the latest club to show a positive interest in Coleraine's talented Northern Ireland international defender Tom Connell, who has also attracted the likes of Liverpool, Wolves, Burnley and Sheffield United.

EIRE Champions Bohemians have given manager Billy Young a new three-year contract. Billy, who took charge at Dalymount in August, 1973, is the longest-serving manager in Eire.

ONE of promoted Wrexham's targets . . . to extend their record of having scored on the opening day for 11 consecutive Football League seasons.

BRISTOL City captain Geoff Merrick looks like missing the start to the season. He's still recovering from a mystery groin injury.

SOME Aston Villa wag recently likened his team to a car auction — this is how it went:

CARRODUS: Good runner, goes forever.

COWANS: Still running in

CROPLEY: In need of some attention

DEEHAN: Low mileage, one owner from new

GIDMAN: Fast, high-powered model

GRAY: Classy model, brakes need adjusting

GREGORY: Economical and in good order

LITTLE: Very nippy

McNAUGHT: Excellent bargain

MORTIMER: Steady and reliable with over-drive

PHILLIPS: In good condition, a leader in its class

RIMMER: Taxed and fully tested

CRAIG: Just arrived latest model

We think the chap that wrote this could be booked and run-in!

Luton Capture Donaghy

LUTON Town's £20,000 close-season capture of Larne's talented Northern Ireland Under-21 international central-defender Mal Donaghy was The Hatters' second Ulster signing within a few months.

Back in March, the Kenilworth Road outfit completed a £30,000 deal for the services of brilliant Linfield defender/midfielder Terry Hayes, another Under-21 star and a potential full international candidate.

WIGAN, England's newest League club, have signed Ian Purdie from Motherwell.

The speedy winger, who once turned down the opportunity to join Rangers, cost 'Well £10,000 when they bought him from Dundee last season. He began his senior career with Aberdeen.



A pleasant summer interlude for Liverpool's England star Phil Neal. He acted as one of the judges for the Miss Great Britain competition.

Here's lucky Phil with heat winner 20-year-old Christine Watkins from Preston.

Beats pre-season training

A Record That May Never Be Beaten

TOTTENHAM'S in-the-news boss Keith Burkinshaw will probably be happy if his side makes a start even two-thirds as impressive as the one which the White Hart Lane club made on the way to the Football League — F.A. Cup double in 1960-61.

Spurs won their first 11 games. Don Revie, whose Leeds side almost equalled it in 1973-74, said it would never be beaten. He could be right!

ARSENAL are the latest club to be told by Middlesbrough there is no chance of them selling 20-year-old striker Stan Cummins . . . at any price.

FROM makeweight to heavyweight — that's the happy experience of Swindon's new winger Ian Miller.

Miller, once given a free transfer by Bury, actually left Nottingham Forest with goalkeeper Denis Peacock and £50,000 for winger Terry Curran in August, 1977. Curran has since joined Derby.

But in July it was time for Perth-born Miller to become the big part of a transfer deal. He went from Doncaster to Swindon for striker Mick French and £25,000.

Miller, a former Perthshire schoolboy player, first attracted attention with Scottish junior side Jeanfield Swifts.

PAUL Barron, Arsenal's £70,000 goalkeeper signing from Plymouth, is so pleased to be back on the London scene.

Born at Woolwich — the name of his new club used to be Woolwich Arsenal — he had a spell at Millwall in 1971, while his dad, George, played for Tottenham Hotspur.

The 23-year-old former Kent county schoolboy and Kent Youth player also had a spell at Slough.

Now he waits in the shadow of Arsenal's Northern Ireland international Pat Jennings, happy in the knowledge he was generally acclaimed as the most talented goalkeeper in the Third Division before moving into the top sphere.

WHICH ground has the highest rating for facilities among referees? The answer is Brighton's Goldstone ground where there's a television set in the officials' room — and a bowl of fresh fruit is always provided before matches.

Pontins Six-a-Side Final

SOUTHAMPTON and Dagenham Athletic contest the Final of the Pontins Invitation Six-a-Side competition prior to Saturday's F.A. Charity Shield. Both won through to Wembley after beating Arsenal on penalties in the Southern Section games which were held at Brian Sanks in May. Dagenham defeated Bolton 7-2 in the Northern Section played at Fratton Park, Sandy.

Oldham's winning captain receives the Northern Section Cup from Mr Jeff Mallinson, manager of Prestatyn Sands Holiday Village.



ST. MIRREN have had to scrap their pre-season tour of Ireland. New manager, Jim Clunie, the ex-Southampton coach, whose Buddies planned to play Shamrock Rovers, Shelbourne, and possibly a third club, were told the call-off was because a number of Irish players currently in America would not be able to return to their clubs in time. St. Mirren will now "warm up" against Scottish teams.

KILMARNOCK have signed Airdrie's top scorer Joe Cairney and Stirling Albion's midfielder Jim Clark in their efforts to gain promotion to the Premier Division next season. Both deals totalled around £60,000.

HEARTS LOSE OUT WINNING PROMOTION

HEARTS drop into the First Division cost them £81,000 last season — compared with a profit of £70,000 in 1976-77, the term they were relegated.

That season they also sold Ralph Callachan to Newcastle United for £80,000, which kept the books healthy. Last season they bought instead — Dave McNichol from Montrose, Ray Dunlop from Stenhousemuir, and Frank Liddell from Alloa Athletic.

Manager Willie Ormond hopes to sign an experienced striker in time for the new season back in the Premier Division.

PAUL ROUND (below), a 19-year-old utility player with Blackburn, certainly knows the Ewood Park scene pretty well.

He was a ball boy with the club when he was only 12! He first joined the playing staff in June, 1975, signing professional two years later and making his League debut three months before becoming a pro.

He first got into the League side as a centre-forward, but later when he went on as a sub he went to centre-half and gave a really impressive performance. So, in years to come, he has the ability to serve as a striker, a defender — or even in midfield!



GREAT GALE

HE isn't 19 yet, but Tony Gale has already proved himself a star of Second Division Fulham.

But the Westminster-born midfielder or central-defender has always been a get-up-and-go youngster as his record shows.

As a schoolboy he won honours for West London, Middlesex, Inner London, London and Southern England and he is an England Youth international.

Fulham, in fact, snapped him up on school-boy forms when he was only 15.

Now Tony has two ambitions — to play in the First Division and win a full England cap. Who would want to back against his chances!

North African Imports

Some of Tunisia's World Cup players are coming to Scotland. The amateurs will be studying in Edinburgh, and already one Premier Division club and two First Division teams have shown an interest in signing some of the men who brought so much excitement to Argentina.

Hearts, though, have already said they will not be signing any of the North Africans.

I HAVEN'T looked forward to the start of a new season with as much excitement and determination as this year.

If the attitude of the players and coaching staff during Derby County's pre-season build-up is a guide to our prospects, then we must achieve success in 1978-79.

Everyone at the Baseball Ground, from chairman George Hardy to the youngest apprentice, has worked so hard for the club over the past few weeks.

Players are made to feel an important part of the set-up at Derby. This sort of atmosphere generates enthusiasm, encourages us to give 100 per cent to the club.

People I have spoken to since my transfer from Manchester United towards the end of last season doubted my wisdom in moving from one of the most glamorous clubs in the world to one which has dropped out of the limelight.

One soccer writer even suggested Derby would struggle to stay in the First Division next year.

As you can imagine I gave him a right Cockney mouthful. How can anyone possibly write off a club which has as much talent available... and the best boss in the business, Tommy Docherty?

I'm not saying Derby will win the League Championship this season, but I am confident of success in one of the Cups.

Tommy Docherty is aiming for the title and then the European Cup. That's what he wanted to achieve at Manchester United. Given some time I'm sure he would have brought those two glittering prizes to Old Trafford.

No Doubts

The gaffer may be forced to make unpopular changes, buy new players to strengthen the squad, but he will eventually take Derby back to the top.

If for one moment I'd had doubts as to County's future I'd never have joined them.

Like all players I want to win trophies and be associated with a successful and thriving club. Without that attitude I might just as well have agreed to a transfer to Timbuktoo United.

Although Rams might be forced to start the season without two of the most experienced midfielders in the game — Don Masson and Bruce Rioch — there is still enough class in the side to challenge the best.

I got to know our young goalkeeper John Middleton on the England B tour to the Far East.

John was signed from Nottingham Forest when Brian Clough bought England's number one Peter Shilton.

Cloughie told Middy the move was no reflection on his ability as a goalkeeper. He simply couldn't wait for him to gain the necessary experience needed to play a vital role in a team going for the Championship.

As it turned out the transfer was a shrewd bit of business because I doubt Forest would have won the title without Shilton. And in the process, Derby have acquired one

Charlie George... the glamour boy of the side.

'MY AIMS

my soccer scene

**GORDON
HILL**



...the glamour boy of the side.

...the glamour boy of the side.

That's how high I rate Derby's only ever-present in League matches last season.

What more can I say about Colin Todd and Roy McFarland? I've 100 per cent respect and admiration for them both on and off the field.

Toddie and Roy have had injury problems over the past couple of years which has affected their form



FOR 1978-79'

and Derby's progress. Let's hope they can now look forward to a trouble free season. No team can afford to lose the services of players of their class and calibre.

Dave Nish has also been struggling to regain fitness. A brave comeback bid last season was wrecked by another knock.

Poor Dave is still fighting to start the campaign. His courage and determination to get back into the side has been an inspiration to everyone around him at the Baseball Ground.

Two Derby players I knew particularly well before arriving at the club are Charlie George and Gerry Daly.

Gerry was a team-mate at Old Trafford.

I know he's had his ups-and-downs with The Doc in the past, but I believe old feuds have now been settled.

He's been out in the States during the summer playing for New England Tea Men.

Gerry was ordered back before time because of an injury sustained in a car crash.

Charlie was also in America, with Minnesota Kicks. Derby should have been playing against these two clubs as part of our pre-season

build-up, but arrangements fell through at the last minute.

I suppose you could say Charlie is the glamour boy of the side... the crowd-puller.

The reasons are obvious. He has so much skill and vision I call him "X-Ray Eyes". He reads situations long before they happen.

Gerry Ryan from Eire club Bohemians is a left-winger like me.

I don't know The Doc's plans yet, but he may well move me inside to play a free role alongside Charlie.

Right-winger is Terry Curran, another signing from Forest. On his day Terry is brilliant. All he needs is a little more consistency in his play to establish himself as one of the top men in the First Division.

Add Stevie Powell, Peter Daniel and Colin "Charlie" Chester and you can see why I'm so optimistic about our chances of landing among the honours this term.

My hopes and aims for 1978-79? To establish myself at the club, maintain my goalscoring average and regain my place in the full England side.

Derby not good enough for success? Rubbish. Most clubs with a fair measure of youth and experience can achieve wonders if they've a good manager... as Nottingham



David Nish... one of three England internationals hit by injury problems last season.

Forest proved last season.

Confidence is the key-word and The Doc has plenty of that to spare. So have the lads at County.

Mind you, I'm glad Derby don't kick-off the new season against the Champions. We have a tough enough task v. Manchester City at the Baseball Ground.

Roy McFarland tells me Derby beat City 2-1 in last season's corresponding match. I forecast the same result for Saturday week (August 19th).

City with new signing defender Paul Fletcher, look formidable enough to seriously challenge Forest for their crown this term.

So do a much-improved Everton, Derby's opponents at Goodison on Tuesday August 22nd.

The Merseysiders threatened to make the breakthrough for honours last term, but fell away at the end. Manager Gordon Lee will rectify that fault this time out I'm sure.

Apparently, The Rams were beaten 2-1 at Goodison last term. I won't stick my neck out on this one except to say we'll be trying hard for a good result to get the new season well and truly under way... in style.

Cheers for now...

Gordon Lee

RESULTS OF TWO SHOOT COMPETITIONS

SHOOT'S Most Exciting Players of the Year Comp.

SHOOT's two most exciting players of the Year for 1977-78 were both Scots, Kenny Dalglish (for the English League) and Derek Johnstone (Scotland). Now we can reveal the names of the winning readers in this competition which appeared in our 29th April issue. First prize, a cine projector and World Cup films goes to David Glass of Prestwick. He correctly answered our three questions, thus: 1. October; 2. Professional Footballers' Association; 3. Hamburger S.V. David's entry was considered the neatest correct, with age being considered. The ten next-best entries each receive a runners-up prize of a film featuring Liverpool and Borussia Moenchengladbach in the '77 European Cup Final.

SHOOT/Player of the Year competition winners

D. Davidson, Leeds.
R. Edwards, Chesham.
David Ettay, Slough.
Leigh Griffiths, Swansea.
Philip Long, Leeds.
John MacDonald, Inverness.
Pat Robbins, Barnsley.
Richard Spurgin, Portsmouth.
Amanda Starkie, St Austell.
Richard Summersgill, Stourbridge.

TANGO WORLD CUP FOOTBALL COMP.

20 TANGO footballs, as used in Argentina, were the prizes in our most recent competition, issue dated 3rd June. Readers were asked three questions, related to the World Cup, and here are the correct answers:—

1. Beckenbauer played in TWO actual Cup Finals; 2. The players pictured were Ruud Krol and Ralf Edstrom; 3. Poland beat Brazil 1-0.

All entries were examined and the prizes have been awarded to the senders of the neatest correct entries, with age being considered, and they are:

SHOOT/TANGO World Cup Football winners

RICHARD BENNETT, Alton.
ANTHONY BENSON, Kidderminster.
STEVEN BUCKTHORP, Lincoln.
NIGEL BULGARELLI, Swindon.
M. J. BURROWS, Southport.
IAN CLARK, High Blantyre.
STEPHEN DICKENS, Southend-on-Sea.
PAUL ELLIS, Bootle.
GLENN KELLY, Stoke-on-Trent.
ANDREW LINDEN, Wrexham.
JOHN LOHAM, Manchester.
FERGUS McCORMICK, Sheffield.
IAN MCGREGOR, Arbroath.
ANDREW J. MCGUIRE, Wishaw.
Y. CILEWYN, Llanwrtyd, Wells.
ALED OWEN, Dolgellau.
CHRISTOPHER POULSON, Colchester.
IAN WALLACE, Pontllanfraith.
JOHN D. WARDEN, Troon.
GARY ZAMMIT, Colchester.

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LEAGUE WINNERS, BUT NOT CHAMPIONS!

IN MEXICO, America finished the League programme three points clear of their nearest rivals after a good 3-2 away win over Atlante in the final fixture. Here's the final top eight after the 34-match programme: 1. América 51 pts. 2. Universidad 48. 3. Toluca 47. 4. Universidad Autónoma 46. 5. León 44. 6.

Cruz Azul 43. 7. At. Español and Guadalajara.

I've listed the top eight because in Mexico the League doesn't finish when the programme has been completed — these eight teams will now play a Mini-League to decide who's really Champions!



World Cup Boss Hits Out

MICHEL Hidalgo (above), France manager, had some stern words to say about the World Cup during a recent interview with *France Football*.

Hidalgo said: "The World Cup showed me that winning has become a matter of life and death. Teams seem to have lost the joys and humour of football."

"The two teams who really caught my eye were Tunisia and Peru. Neither was given a chance before the Finals, yet they gave me some hope for the future."

"In contrast, the likes of West Germany, Brazil and Holland too often played brutal soccer."

"We also saw that because of the qualifying system, a 0-0 result can favour one team. This hardly makes for spectacular football."

"In my view, too many of the traditional standards of fair play and honesty were bypassed in Argentina."

PELÉ is getting a divorce — Rose, his wife, says that his constant absence abroad caused the parting of the ways, and now the fact that Pelé has signed a new six years contract with Warner Communications, has made her position impossible. Pelé has agreed that she is to have custody of both children.

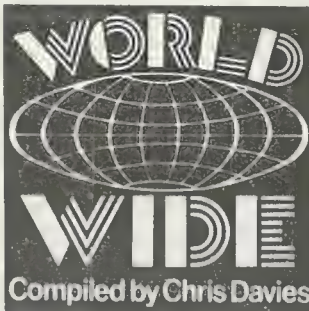
IN Portugal, Benfica finished the 1977/78 League season with the incredible record of remaining unbeaten and conceding only 11 goals in the 30 matches they played. Yet they weren't Champions! F.C. Oporto pipped them for the title on goal-difference!

THE SPANISH authorities have finally taken action over the Rayo Vallecano-Betis bribery scandal (which I reported last season), and Rial (Rayo) and Anzarda (Betis) have both been suspended for eight months. Rial had planned to retire from football in any case in order to open a practice as a lawyer! He's announced that his first "case" will be to sue Betis defender Sabate for slander!

NO BRAZIL TEAM UNTIL 1980

HELENO Nunes, head of the Brazilian F.A., dismissed the Technical Committee that coached and trained Brazil during the World Cup in Argentina, but this doesn't affect team-boss Coutinho's position as an F.A. employee, on loan from Flamengo Football Club, where he will resume his duties this month.

Mr. Nunes added that no Brazilian team will be formed before 1980, with the possible exception of a Select XI hastily put together for the festival that F.I.F.A. is organising for the end of this year. Mr Nunes feels quite happy these days, for a bronze effigy of his was inaugurated at the Varzea Club, in Teresopolis, where Brazil trained for the World Cup.



LUXEMBOURG TOP GOAL-LIST

LUXEMBOURG are Europe's Goal Kings! Last season, the First Division clubs of the European soccer minnows chalked up a better goals-for average than any other country. And Northern Ireland's teams, too, also bettered the average of the major soccer powers. This table shows a complete breakdown of last season's European First Divisions, showing where the

most goals were scored, the best averages . . . and the worst.

Obviously Luxembourg's clubs play fewer games than most countries, yet it must still be to their credit that they averaged 3.57 goals per match. Perhaps West Germany are the "true" Champions. Not only is the Bundesliga one of the strongest Leagues in Europe, but they play more games (34) than some others.

Sixteen countries reported an improvement in goals-per-game, but despite a better average, Turkey still occupied bottom spot!

COUNTRY	TOP SCORER	GOALS	TOTAL GOALS		
			IN 1st	1977/78	1976/77
			DIVISION	AVERAGE	AVERAGE
Luxembourg	Müller (Red Boys)	18	472	3.57	2.94
N. Ireland	Armstrong (Ards)	21	441	3.34	3.07
W. Germany	G. Müller (Bayern) D. Müller (Cologne)	24	1,014	3.31	3.54
Denmark	Hansen (Odense)	23	785	3.27	2.93
Switzerland	Kunzli (Lausanne Sports)	20	589	3.12	3.32
Hungary	Fazekas (Ujpest Dozsa)	24	920	3.00	3.12
Norway	Oehland (Byrne Idrettslag)	19	396	3.00	2.54
France	Bianchi (Paris St-Germain)	37	1,135	2.96	2.95
Holland	Geels (Ajax)	32	901	2.94	2.83
East Germany	Havenstein (Chemie Böhlen)	15	528	2.90	2.74
Belgium	Nickel & Riedl (Both Standard Liege)	21	864	2.82	2.71
Scotland	Johnstone (Rangers)	22	507	2.81	2.78
Austria	Krankl (Rapid Vienna)	41	503	2.79	2.62
Spain	Kempes (Valencia)	28	842	2.75	2.62
Finland	Pastelainen (Haka Valkeakoski)	20	364	2.76	2.78
Eire	O'Connor (Bohemians)	24	652	2.71	2.90
Rumania	Georgescu (Dinamo Bucharest)	20	829	2.70	2.55
Sweden	Almqvist (IFK Gothenburg) & Aronsson (Landskrona)	15	491	2.69	2.84
England	Latchford (Everton)	30	1,231	2.66	2.55
Czechoslovakia	Kroupa (Zbrojovka Brunn)	19	640	2.66	2.88
Bulgaria	Mladenov (Beroe Zagora)	21	619	2.57	2.53
Yugoslavia	Savic (FC Sarajevo)	21	778	2.53	2.43
Portugal	Gomes (FC Porto)	24	583	2.43	2.56
Greece	Mavros (AEK Athens)	24	733	2.39	2.63
Italy	Rossi (Lanerossi Vicenza)	23	512	2.13	2.22
Poland	Kimiecik (Wisla Krakow)	15	510	2.12	2.39
USSR	Bloch (Dynamo Kiev)	17	481	2.00	2.10
Turkey	Cemil (Fenerbahce)	17	474	1.97	1.80

Rob Rensenbrink has announced that he will not play for Holland again.

Pic right shows Rensenbrink in World Cup action against Argentina.



WORLD-CLASS KEEGAN



FALLEN World Champions West Germany don't have any world-class players . . . that is the opinion of the highly-respected Kicker sports magazine in their annual critical look at the Bundesliga.

In fact, according to Kicker there are only two world-class players in their League — Kevin Keegan and Swedish goalkeeper Ronnie Hellström.

This is a tremendous boost for the former Liverpool striker as he starts his second season with Hamburger SV. Keegan has had his share of problems since moving to Germany, but to be rated so highly by Kicker proves the 26-year-old Keegan has been a success in Germany.

Ironically, Allan Simonsen, the Dane with Borussia Monchengladbach who pipped Keegan for the European Footballer of the Year title, is reckoned to be only international-class.

AUSTRIA central-defender Bruno Pezzey has signed for West Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt. The man who organised the transfer was Eintracht skipper Jürgen Grabowski.

Spain's "Giant Of World Football" Dies

YOU MAY have wondered why there was a minute's silence at the start of some of the early World Cup games. One, in fact, was a tribute to Santiago Bernabeu, president of Real Madrid, who died at the age of 83. In Britain we don't pay a lot of attention to club presidents, but Santiago Bernabeu has really been one of the giants of world football over the last half-century, building up an unequalled record of successes for his club and leading Real to a position of world fame.

In his 35 years as sole president of the club, Real won 18 League titles, eight Spanish Cups, six European Cups and a host of other honours that have filled Real's unbelievable trophy room. In the face of bitter opposition, Santiago Bernabeu undertook the construction as long ago as 1947 of Real's 125,000-capacity stadium which is now a living memorial to one of soccer's truly great names.



*West Ham and England
midfielder Trevor Brooking
finds two wheels tough
going.*

THE 1978 battle of the Superstars will be shown on BBC TV in the winter. As in previous years some of our leading players were in action against stars of other sports in an exciting, but often arduous contest of skill, speed and strength. Here's a preview of this...



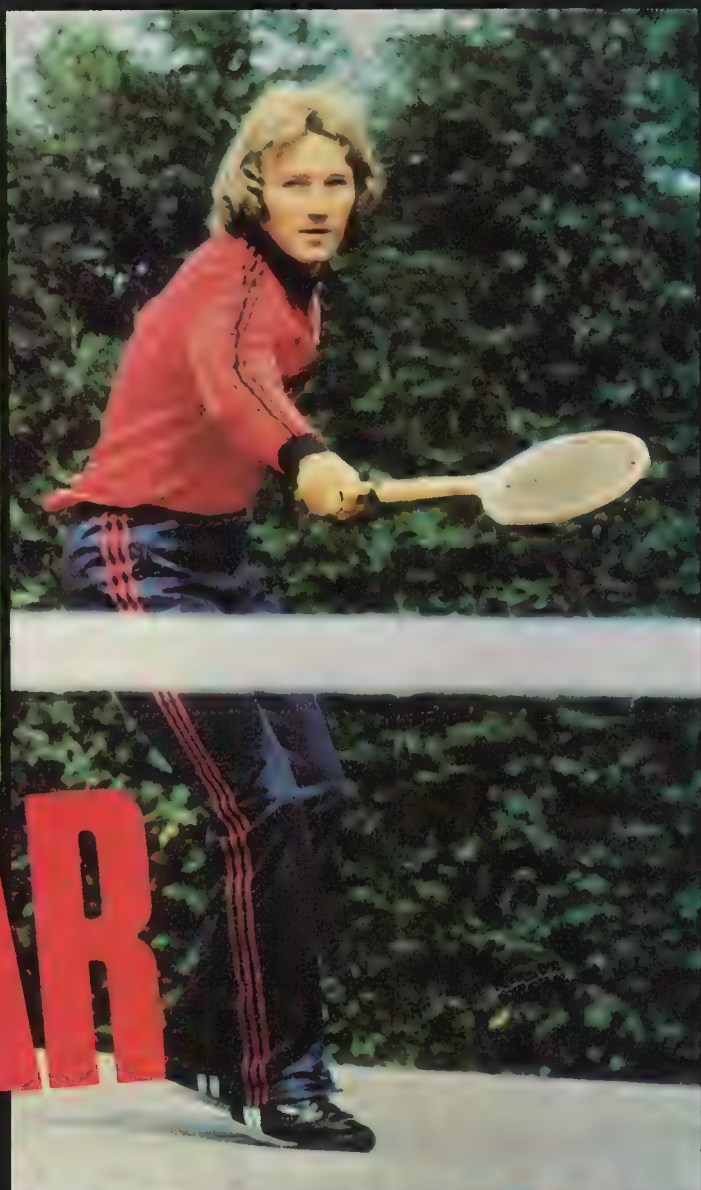
SPORTS SP



Ahead of the field... Gordon Hill shows boxer Dave "Boy" Green and swimmer David Wilkie a clean pair of talented heels. Right: Tony Currie on target with the crossbow.

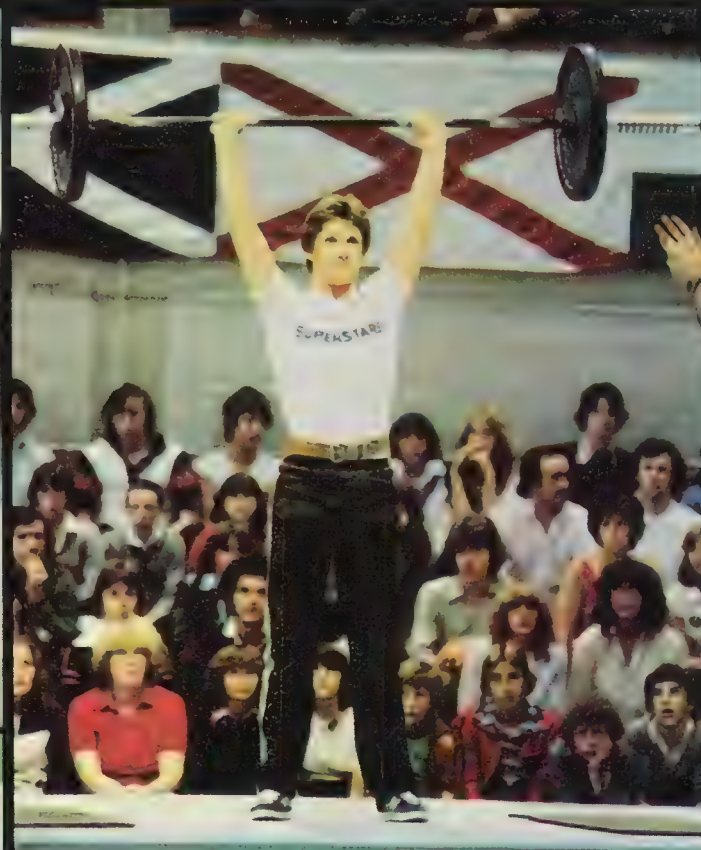


An all-star multi-sport line up. Gordon Hill (soccer), Trevor Brooking (soccer), Peter Collins (speedway), Eric Hughes (Rugby League), Dave "Boy" Green (boxing), Tony Currie (soccer), Dave Wilkie (swimming) and Ray Stevens (badminton).



PECTACULAR

Above right: During a break in the events Tony Currie showed his tennis skills. Right: Gordon Hill doesn't believe in "weighting" around. Below: Trevor Brooking, elegant on the field — and in a canoe.



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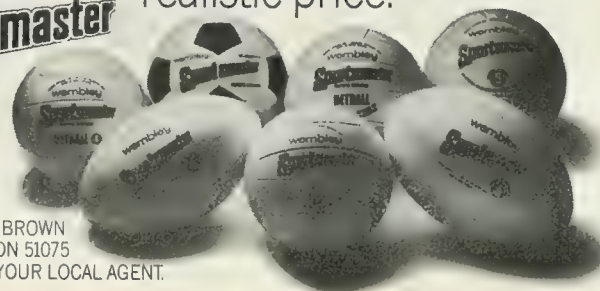


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**Aston Villa's JIMMY RIMMER explains
the reasons why...**

GOALIES SHOULDN'T BE CAPTAINS

CONSIDERABLE interest was aroused during the World Cup when Brazil and Italy were both captained by their experienced goalkeepers Leao and Zoff.

Even allowing for the fact that in these countries the captain of the national side is always the most-capped player, it was still interesting to see two goalies as skipper.

But is a 'keeper the best man for the job? This was one of the questions we put to Aston Villa's star goalie Jimmy Rimmer.

"It's not a bad idea," he said, "but I think it's better if the duty is performed by an experienced out-field player. I've always felt goalkeepers who are rich in experience, like Pat Jennings or Alex Stepney don't have to be skippers because people look to them and really they're already captains.

"If you have an experienced 'keeper then he can play the role of second skipper to help everyone at the back.

"A midfielder or defender is my ideal choice. I don't think a forward should be given the role because he can't do the job at the back. He can pick the centre-half up, but he can't get behind him every time.

"It's true a goalkeeper can see everything that's going on, but what can he say to his forwards up-front? He can only shout and you don't want to have to bawl from the halfway line to buck the forwards up when there's a midfielder or a defender on hand to transmit the information.

Hard Job

"It's a great honour to be made skipper and it's something I would never turn down. I think a goalkeeper would do the job for a limited number of matches and only then if someone was injured.

"If he's more experienced the players would still look to him in defence. He's there in the thick of things and he can organise people, but he can't tell players in every position how they should perform.

"Not many captains tell a goalkeeper what to do. It's a very hard job to say you should have done this or you should have done that if you haven't played in goal.

"I've been made skipper once or twice, but you can't really tell how it would work out unless you've been doing it for a full season, then it might be different altogether.

"It would help with the concentration problem because you'd be in the game all the time, but I shout at the lads up to the halfway line, so I'm keeping myself alert that way. I act as a skipper and it keeps me in the game when play switches to the other end.

"I shout all the time and it was Harry Gregg who taught me this.



Some 'keepers just stay back, they don't go to the edge of the box. I teach the apprentices to go forward and they ask what happens when someone comes and lobs it over your head?

"But it's a thousand to one chance this occurs. Then they say, well, somebody could burst through quickly, but there again it only takes a few seconds to get back. Not many people would lob you from a long way out."

The World Cup also brought some long-range shooting and some glorious goals — just how difficult is it for a goalkeeper to deal with this kind of shot?

"I think the 'keepers have been taken completely by surprise — even those on the Continent. They didn't even move because they never expected people to shoot from so far out.

"We don't have shooting practice in this country from these kinds of distances. It might be an out of this world shot, yet people still say the goalie should have stopped it.

"From that distance a 'keeper doesn't even come to the six yard line to narrow the angle because he could be lobbed. If it's a longish shot then you could be caught napping and this is what happened.

"I think it will be practised a lot more this season and goalkeepers will have to be aware of their positioning. As I say, there's not many people who shoot from those distances in this country.

"I know Tony Currie did it against Wales. He just hit it. It was a great goal and it was on target. But that's only one out of all the games which are played every week. I think more people will try it and more people will score if goalkeepers don't do something to counteract it.

"I'll be trying because I'm sure managers are going to tell their players to have a crack after seeing goals like we've seen."

THERE was a time, not so long ago, when England were on top of the football world and their players earned the admiration and respect of all their international opposition.

Then for over three years they were out in the wilderness... almost an international farce. Only since the appointment of Ron Greenwood as England manager have they produced any sort of form which gives hope for the future.

Why England have struggled in recent years has been discussed at great lengths by many soccer writers without reaching any real solutions.

Now REG CLARK, one of SHOOT'S contributors with many years of experience, has put forward this reason — too many and too frequent changes in defence. In particular this concerns the introduction of the "back-four" playing behind three or four midfield men, instead of the two full-backs and three half-backs defensive line-up of the halcyon days of English supremacy.

From 1974 up to the World Cup qualifying game in Luxembourg in October, 1977 — 36 internationals — 16 players wore the numbers two and three shirts, and some of those made only fleeting appearances.

Yet, in only ten games were two recognised full-backs — that is men playing regularly for their clubs as two and three — chosen for those positions — David Nish and Mike Pejic four times; Steve Whitworth and Ian Gillard twice; David Clement and Mick Mills once; Clement and Phil Neal once and Neal and Mills twice. All the other chosen "full-backs" were utility players who earned caps in other back-four or midfield positions. But since then, Greenwood has played Phil Neal (Liverpool) and Mick Mills (Ipswich) in five of the last seven games and it is interesting to note the only defeat England have suffered was a 2-1 reverse by West Germany in Munich last February.

Berths

How different from earlier years. Between 1950 and 1970, a period of 200 international encounters, the full-back berths were occupied by only 33 players, all accredited and experienced wearers of the full-back shirts.

Those figures give some idea of the importance in those days of the value of two men being given the chance to work up an understanding together as England's last line of defence.

Going back to 1948 we find John Aston (Manchester United) beginning a run of 17 games at left-back. After two appearances he paired up with Alf Ramsey (Spurs) and they were together in eight games — and six of these ended in England victories.

In 1950 Alf Ramsey was joined by Bill Eckersley, Blackburn Rovers' brilliant little left-back, and they remained partners on 17 occasions. When Alf and Bill faded from the England side there was no difficulty in finding successors.

The two men selected were Ron Staniforth (Huddersfield) and Roger Byrne (Manchester United). Eight times they played together

WHEN ENGLAND'S "PICKED

Terry Cooper clears an attack from Brazil during the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico.



before any further change was necessary.

Then it was Jeff Hall (Birmingham) who took over from Ron Staniforth. Hall and Byrne developed into another wonderful full-back duo.

These two dedicated stylists, who each relied on speed and skill rather than on bodily contact, proved so successful together they appeared 17 successive times as England's numbers two and three, only once tasting defeat.

Their partnership might have become one of the longest in international records, but in 1957 Jeff Hall was struck down by polio and less than twelve months later Roger Byrne was killed in the Munich air disaster.

It was a double tragedy for England — yet there were more and more full-backs waiting in the wings for their big chance.

Don Howe, then with West Bromwich and now Arsenal's chief coach, took over from Jeff Hall and began a splendid unbroken run of 23 England caps.

In 1959, nearing the end of his international career, Don teamed up with Blackpool's Jimmy Armfield for several games.

When Don Howe eventually dropped out, "Gentleman Jim" switched to right-back and quickly took possession of that position, missing only one of England's next 38 games.

During that four season period he began another wonderful partnership, with Ray Wilson (Huddersfield Town), which lasted for 23 games, including the 1962 World Cup Finals.

Each was a soccer master in his own right, but each submerged his own style to complement his partner. It would be true to say they "chose themselves" as England's back pair during their long run

together.

When Alf Ramsey took over the England managership in 1963 he hoped to keep them together in his build up to the 1966 World Cup Finals, but injury to Jimmy Armfield brought the partnership to a

summary end. George Cohen, of Fulham, was the man chosen for the number two shirt and thus began yet another of England's amazing succession of brilliant defensive double acts.

Stylist, speedy George Cohen and solid, unshakeable Ray Wilson played together in 27 internationals, including all six games in the World Cup Finals when England triumphed.

Cohen and Wilson will always be remembered both as individuals and as partners who played for each other. Two of the greatest full-backs in England's international Hall of Fame.

Their last appearance together in England shirts was against Ireland in November, 1967, then injury to Cohen meant a new partner being found for Ray Wilson.

Several men were tried — each of them a regular, experienced number two.

Eventually, when Ray Wilson



England's present numbers two and three. Phil Neal (right) plays right-back while Ipswich's Mick Mills (above) fills the number three spot.



NUMBERS 2 and 3 THEMSELVES"

also ended his 63-caps international stint, Keith Newton and Terry Cooper settled down as partners in ten games.

Then in May, 1974, Sir Alf Ramsey was deposed as England's boss and Don Revie became his successor. It heralded a new approach to team selection and only recently have we seen the development of a two-man defensive partnership. No pair of full-backs has lasted longer than four successive games. Shades of earlier glory days...

If any further proof is needed of the importance of a full-back partnership in the build-up of a successful side, you have only to look at the Championship and Cup winning sides of recent years.

Take Liverpool as an outstanding example. Bill Shankly never doubted the value of a number two and three double act. Gerry Lawler and Gerry Byrne; Lawler and Alec Lindsay; Tommy Smith and Lindsay (four star defenders covering a period of twelve successful years).

Then during the 1975-76 season Phil Neal and Joey Jones began their association which ended with 'Pool winning the League Championship and European Cup in 1976-77.

It is quite obvious club managers still believe two full-backs working together in close harmony and allowed to build up essential spirit of partnership are vital to team success.

Which brings us back to our opening remarks — why did England discard the policy that helped to put our football on top of the world?

It certainly is not true of Scotland. Sandy Jardine and Danny McGrain, with Willie Donachie and Stewart Kennedy, four truly splendid full-backs, any two of which can form a successful double act, not only helped Scotland to a place in this year's World Cup Finals as Britain's only representatives, but proved without a shadow of doubt the so called "old fashioned" idea

of full-back partnerships is as essential today as ever it was in past years.

So manager Ron Greenwood is definitely progressing along the right lines and as long as he can produce the successful full-back partnerships like Phil Neal and Mick Mills then there is no reason why England can't go from strength to strength and build on a solid foundation.



Jimmy Armfield (main picture) missed only one in 38 consecutive England games. Alf Ramsey (above) played right-back for the international side and later guided them to World Cup triumph as boss. Ray Wilson (below, light shirt) lunges in during a 1966 World Cup game against France at Wembley.





"Trevor Brooking helped me considerably during my England debut against Italy."

'THIS ENGLAND TEAM WAS UNBEATABLE'

ONE of the highlights of my career came in 1975 when I led the England youth team to victory in the Little World Cup held in Switzerland.

We beat Finland 1-0 in the Final — and I scored the winning goal.

It was marvellous to bring the trophy home and the team we had must have been one of the best-ever at that level.

Most have gone on to win further international honours as well as establishing themselves in the First Division.

Our goalkeeper — who pulled off some magnificent saves throughout the competition — was John Middleton of Derby County.

The full-backs were John Sparrow, my team-mate at Chelsea, and Ian Smith, who was with Spurs at the time, but moved on to Rotherham United.

Centre-half was another Chelsea lad, big Stevie Wicks, and he was partnered by Bryan Robson. Bryan was our sweeper, but he has developed into a midfield-man with West Bromwich Albion.

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RAY WILKINS writes for you



"I bring home the Little World Cup in 1975. I'll never forget scoring the winning goal for England."

Alongside me in midfield were Glenn Hoddle of Spurs and Alan Curbishley, the West Ham schemer.

Up-front we had Manchester City's Peter Barnes on the wing, with John Trewick (West Brom) and Keith Bertschin (now Birmingham City) in the middle.

We played some first-class football in winning the tournament and all credit to our manager, Ken Burton.

Ken isn't too well-known, but his job of guiding the England youngsters has been a very important part of our game.

In many ways I'd say he was like the England manager Ron Greenwood. Both have similar personalities and Ken, like his boss, has a good relationship and understanding with his players.

Promising

As I said, nearly all that side have gone on to become well-known, yet it is probably also true to say that many promising young players don't live up to their potential.

I believe the changes initiated by Ron Greenwood, especially the resurrection of the B side, will go a long way towards helping our players.

Mr. Greenwood now has a strong team of coaches for all his sides and this can only be a good thing.

In the past, a player went from the youth team to the Under-23's. There was nothing else in-between and I feel the gap was too large.

Now, there is the Under-21's and then the B team to help a youngster graduate through to the full international side.

He can reach the top slowly, but surely, being gradually introduced to a higher grade of football.

I was sorry that the England Under-21 side couldn't field its strongest line-up against Yugoslavia in the European Championship.

The team had been fairly settled, but when the most important tie came club calls wrecked the plans of Dave Sexton, who's in charge of the Under-21's.

Key players were missing from the front-line and with a full-strength side I believe England could have gone all the way and won the competition.

There are some exciting prospects in the Under-21 side and none better than Glenn Hoddle. I think the Spurs' midfielder is set for a long and distinguished career.

The season Glenn has just had down in Division Two won't have done him any harm. In fact, the experience will have done him good. I found the Second Division more physical than the top flight and it helped me get used to a more rugged approach to soccer.

I was glad to see Nottingham Forest's Tony Woodcock drafted into the England set-up during the British Championship. Tony has everything a striker needs: two good feet, strong in the air, very fast with fine close skills.

His Forest team-mate, Viv Anderson, has made his mark with the Under-21's. A defender who loves to attack, Viv is like a right-winger at times and could become the first black player to win a full England cap.

It must happen — a black player

playing for England. It isn't easy for these lads, who are often targets for racially-biased fans, but in the long run they'll be judged solely on ability. And if they have enough of it, they'll be rewarded by playing at the highest level.

Graham Rix must have been choked when he was named as Arsenal's substitute for the F.A. Cup Final, but he took it well and he knows that setbacks are very much part of football.

I remember how Alan Ball used to rave about Graham. He had a very impressive first full season in Division One during 1977/78. In a couple of years, Graham could be one of the best midfielders around.

Should more youngsters be given a chance in the full England team? At the moment, Peter Barnes and I are the "babes" and I'll never forget

young player has a nightmare debut, it could ruin his chances of an international career, even if the only reason he played badly was his inexperience. This is why the Under-21 and B teams are so important in the development of would-be full internationals.

Another reason why not so many young players have been capped is simply that for a long time England had so many useful experienced players.

Sir Alf Ramsey had a settled side for a few years, while Don Revie was in a similar position.

The biggest lesson I've learned in my two years as an international is not to give the ball away. The standard at this level is so high that mistakes are punished very severely more often than not.

I'm probably more adventurous



"Glenn Hoddle is set for a long and distinguished career"

my debut against Italy in 1976 in New York.

I was nervous enough coming in to the squad, but the senior players made me feel very much at home straight away.

When Don Revie told me he was going to play me against the Italians I was petrified . . . shaking like a leaf!

I just couldn't imagine myself playing alongside someone like Trevor Brooking, yet again he helped me considerably and virtually talked me through the game.

Don Revie and Les Cocker said to me: "Go out and play your normal game." Thankfully, we won 3-2.

The problem can be that if a

with Chelsea in the domestic game, but for England I have to be aware that I'm up against a higher class of player and must play accordingly.

Now, I'm confident with England and I express myself more than I used to. This, of course, can only come with experience and at the moment I'm simply delighted to be part of Ron Greenwood's revitalised England set-up.

I don't regard myself as a regular — just more regular than when I first came into the side!

Join me again in two weeks,

Ray Wilkins

GOALS.



MAIN PICTURE . . . Young Player of the Year Tony Woodcock scores for Champions Nottingham Forest against Manchester United at Old Trafford.
LEFT . . . Leeds' Ray Hankin nips in between two Ipswich players to head past goalkeeper Paul Cooper.



GOALS, GOALS...

What we want to see more of in 1978-79

RIGHT . . . Charlton's Mike Flanagan (number 9), who has had such a good summer in the United States, shoots past Millwall's Nicky Johns at The Den.

BELOW . . . Ray Clemence is helpless as Q.P.R.'s Stan Bowles nets against Liverpool.



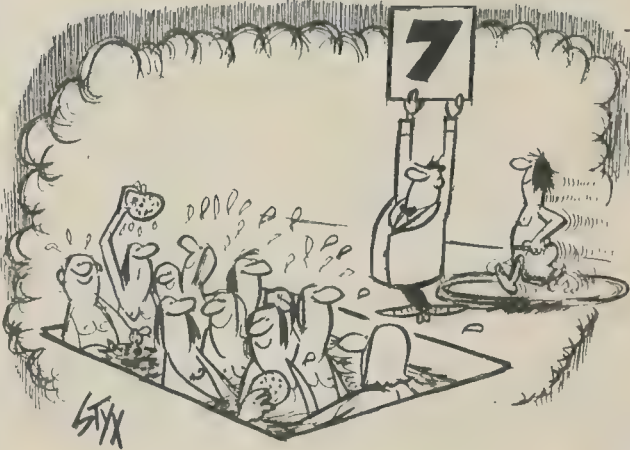
BELOW . . . Martin Dobson heads Everton's first goal against Coventry City at Goodison.



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



This week Arsenal's Alan Sunderland (right) and Graham Rix select the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"And what's it going to be this season, manager? A ride with the gods or a hitch-hike with the deadbeats?"



"When I got to the ground I found some comic had fiddled about with my banner"

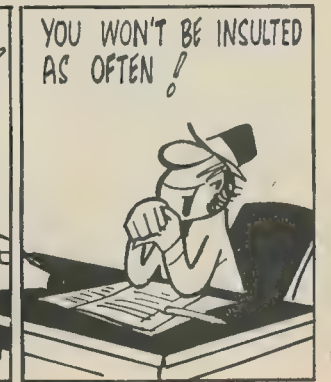
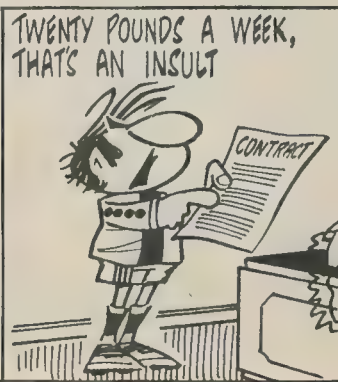


"Hello, hello! This guy's not going to miss much, is he?"



"They are talking about giving an award to goalkeepers. How about a silver bullet for our wonderboy?"

NOBBY



OUR immediate reaction, when we heard that a League club was about to start full-day training, was to say "about time too!" and to congratulate the club — Carlisle United — on the step which has been long overdue in our game.

How ridiculous it is with skill too often at such a low ebb in clubs the majority of players merely train for a couple of hours four or five mornings a week, with only the occasional "parade" back in the afternoon, generally when a crisis arises.

We spoke to Bobby Moncur, the former Newcastle United, Sunderland and Scotland defender, who is the architect of the new schedule at Carlisle. "It's not strictly true," he told us, "that we are going to work an eight-hour day as has been reported in some quarters . . . but certainly we will be putting in much more time than has been done in the past."

"It has been a tradition for players just to train in the morning and I believe that, especially at our level, it is important to get the players back in the afternoons to make them work, to improve their skills. Like any other business man a footballer should work at his trade."

"My players don't mind coming back provided, of course, it improves their game. In my own days I used to do extra training . . . like a lot of players I had many faults which I wanted to correct. O.K., so you can't iron them all out, but I'll tell you what you can do . . . you can make yourself better on most of them."

"The majority of my lads here

Carlisle Players Enjoy Working Overtime



Bobby Moncur (left) with caretaker boss Dick Young.

want to improve their game and they are at the level they can improve quickly."

"The morning sessions are naturally intended to get them to the peak of physical condition and one must guard against physically crucifying them when you bring them back after lunch. Therefore, the afternoon sessions will concentrate on coaching individual skills."

"As a basic example — we have got so many players in League football, at the top level as well I may add, who have got a tremendous right or left foot but there are

not too many top class two-footed players. Now, if you have got a guy who can't kick with his left foot, then by getting him to continually knock the ball about with his 'bad' foot he will get more adept with it . . . and that's a fact."

"I've got players here at Carlisle who have the basis of being First Division players — and there's no way that, if I bring them back, they won't get better at something. I am not suggesting you can give a player pace if he is naturally slow, or if he is 24 years old and is 5' 6" you can make him two inches taller . . . but you will be able to

improve on his skills with practice."

"One of the great stories in golf star Gary Player's book tells of the time he had to make a long putt. He holed the ball from over 30 feet and someone in the gallery said 'that was lucky' and Gary turned around and retorted 'yes, when you practise ten hours a day you get lucky!' It's the same in football, a guy will score a goal and will be called lucky, but the more he practises the more he is going to get a few breaks."

SHOOT put it to Moncur the extra hours will mean more work for others including himself. "Yes, but if I work harder, my players are going to improve and they will become a better team. When that happens it will make my job easier, likewise their job will become easier and they will reap the benefit. And so will the club and the fans."

It's our bet quite a few clubs will shortly follow Carlisle's example. To succeed, their managers will have to be as resolute as Moncur who can see no hindrance to his plans.

"Not many of our lads have got other business interests and I don't mind them doing other things to improve their standard of living so long as they don't interfere with their football. Football always came first with me and everything else had to take second place."

"I have a young, fairly inexperienced team but they are all working hard and are on the way up and, no matter how the season goes, I am not going to change my way of thinking . . . I can only see better things for the players."

Willie Carr (left) and Steve Daley combine to set up another attack for Wolves.





**FOOTBALL
CRAZY**
FASCINATING FACTS FILE
Nº1

THE HEAVIEST GOALKEEPER.

England International Willie J. "Fatty" Foulkes (1874-1916) stood 6'3" tall and weighed in at a massive 22st 2lb. Being custodian of the net for Sheffield United, Chelsea and Bradford. At the close of his career he reached 26 stone and once stopped a game by breaking the cross bar.

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SMITHS FOOTBALL CRAZY.

FOCUS ON

DAVE THOMAS

Everton

FULL NAME: Dave Thomas
BIRTHPLACE: Kirkby-in-Ashfield
BIRTHDATE: 5th October, 1950
HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins
WEIGHT: 11st 8lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Burnley and Queens Park Rangers
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: Two, Helen and Polly Jane
CAR: Lancia
FAVOURITE PLAYER: None
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: None
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They're all difficult

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Debut for England v. Czechoslovakia at Wembley, October, 1974

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring winning goal for England schoolboys at Wembley

BIGGEST

DISAPPOINTMENTS: Losing in two League Cup Semi-Finals

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Norway

FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES:

Fishing and gardening

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:

People who aren't punctual

FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:

World About Us and all gardening programmes

FAVOURITE SINGERS: None

FAVOURITE ACTORS: Paul Newman and Clint Eastwood

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON

CAREER: My parents

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Injuries

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Schoolboy, Youth, Under-23's and Full caps

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win something

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE?

Haven't a clue

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?

Geoffrey Smith, the TV Gardening expert

D. Thomas.



Joe Jordan (number 8) hammers the ball over the bar against Q.P.R. last season at Old Trafford. Manager Dave Sexton (below).

BIG JOE FACES A BIG TEST

MANCHESTER United are one week away from one of the most critical seasons in their history. Having spent the best part of £1 million on Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan, the Old Trafford fans will quite rightly expect to see The Reds challenging seriously for a trophy or two.

The faithful supporters will also be waiting to see how the side, under Dave Sexton, plays. When Tommy Docherty was in charge, United were always good value for money, throwing caution to the wind. In the latter part of last season, Sexton changed the team's style . . . bought the two Scots . . . sold the popular Gordon Hill . . . and now, before a ball has been kicked, there have been stories of unrest behind the scenes.

This is Sexton's second full season at Old Trafford. He's had time to take a close look at his players and assess their value. Now, he faces one of his biggest challenges.

Fans are disappointed the club haven't signed a top-line goalkeeper. Times were when United could get just about any player in the country they wanted . . . but



these have changed.

McQueen should certainly bolster a defence that has lacked height in recent years. Few would doubt the former Leeds man is Britain's best stopper, but similarly, few would be prepared to agree fellow Scot Joe Jordan has been as valuable an acquisition.

It is a fact Jordan is not a prolific goalscorer. With Leeds, he aver-

aged a goal every five games; during his 14 League appearances for United last season he scored three goals. When Jordan joined United, they went ten games without winning, with Jordan not scoring in his first seven outings in his new colours.

Jordan can point out he has made more than his share of goals during his career. He's also scored some very significant ones, notably for Scotland. It was his header that enabled the Scots to qualify for the '74 Finals — his diving effort against Czechoslovakia will never be forgotten at Hampden Park. Joe was also largely responsible for Scotland reaching Argentina; against Wales, he challenged David Jones for a high ball, and the Welsh defender was adjudged to have handled, but a photograph subsequently published suggested Joe was the culprit. Scotland scored from the resultant penalty, and from that moment they were on their way to Argentina.

Perhaps Jordan is a player's player. The P.F.A. chose him in their last First Division side, but that won't mean a thing unless he produces the goods at Old Trafford.

United fans have been bred on a succession of first-class strikers and Jordan faces comparison with some very famous names. In a nutshell, a goal every five games won't be good enough. That will mean he'll finish the season without even reaching double figures. For a £350,000 striker — is that sufficient?

The additional problem for Jordan could be with Scotland. He's been a regular choice for the past few years, but after the Argentina fiasco there are certain to be some changes. It is possibly true to say Big Joe has played better against Continentals, who aren't used to his physical style. But at the same time, foreign stoppers give little away and in the '78 World Cup Finals Jordan was too often mastered, just as he was by Dave Watson at Hampden in May.

Jordan says: "The United fans have been very good to me. I enjoyed the last month or so of last season . . . I could feel some sort of understanding coming together.

"I've always been known as a hard-man, a battering ram. I hope all this will change now. United play the ball more to my feet, while with Leeds it was invariably in the air.

"I believe I have more skill on the ground than I'm given credit for. My game has changed since I came to Old Trafford, playing alongside Stuart Pearson. I feel more confident about taking on a defender with the ball at my feet. Steve Coppell varies his centres, not just sending them across to me in the air."

How United will line-up for the new season is unknown as the rumours fly around. Yet it is hard to believe they won't make full use of Jordan's biggest asset . . . his power in the air . . . despite what

he says.

You don't pay almost £400,000 for one of the best headers in Europe and play the ball to his feet all the time.

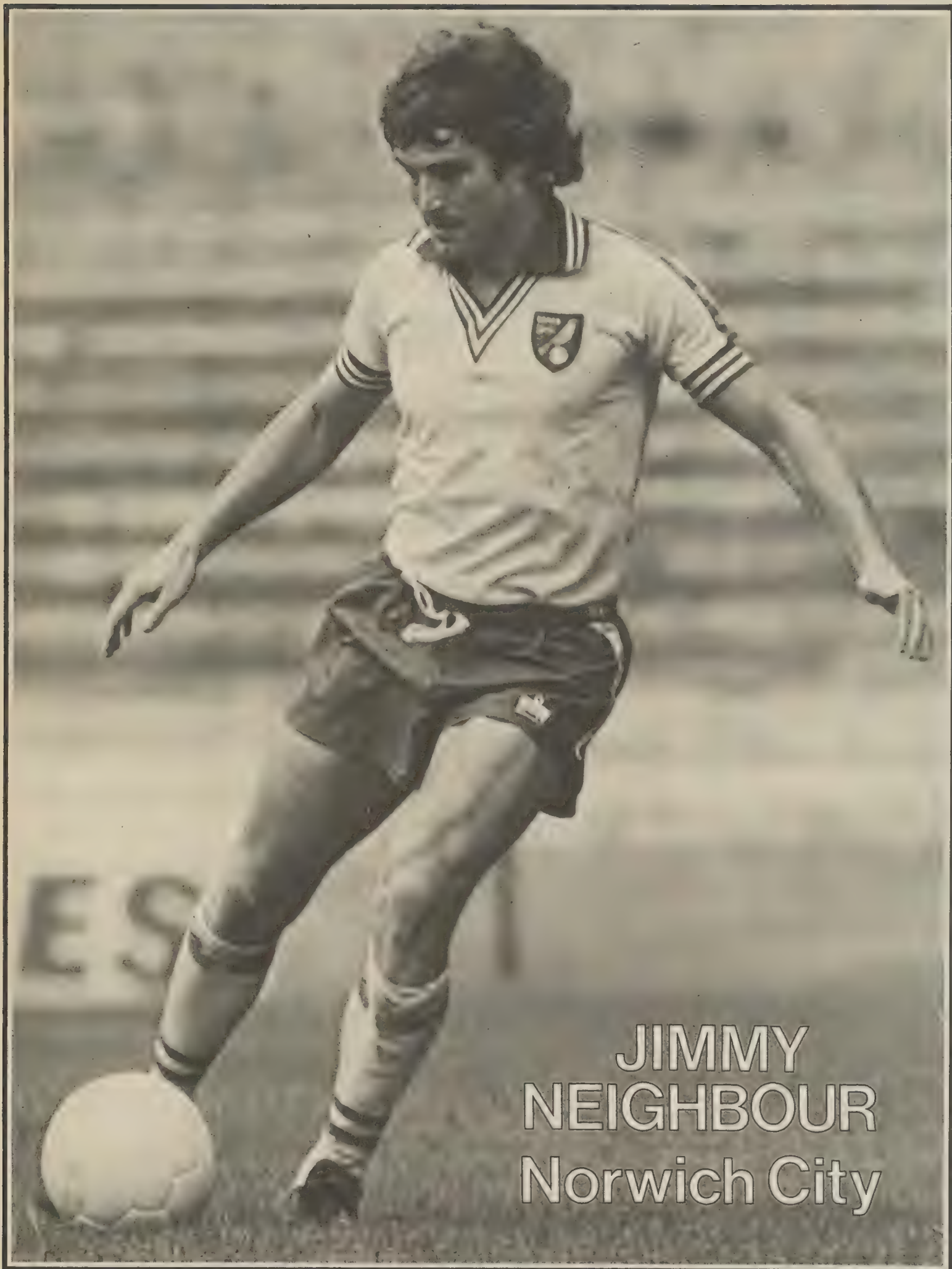
United fans are going to have to get used to a new style — one winger and more high crosses than in the days of the Coppell, Pearson, Greenhoff, Hill front-four.

If Joe is scoring regularly for his club, then perhaps Ally MacLeod — if he does actually stay on as Scotland manager — may remain loyal to him.

Yet Rangers' Derek Johnstone has already given notice of what he can do in a Scotland shirt with two excellent performances and goals against Northern Ireland and Wales.

There is also Aston Villa's Andy Gray waiting for the chance to pull on the famous dark blue jersey again. He should have been in Argentina, and assuming he keeps up his scoring rate, MacLeod must take notice of the 22-year-old striker.

At the moment 1978/79 is all ifs and buts, and at Manchester United there are some very important questions waiting to be answered.



JIMMY
NEIGHBOUR
Norwich City



Read across for home games; down for aways, i.e. Aberdeen home to Celtic on Oct 7 and Feb 10, away to Celtic on Dec 9 and April 21. And you can add the results of Premier Division matches in the spaces below the dates.

	ABERDEEN	CELTIC	DUNDEE UTD	HEARTS	HIBERNIAN	MORTON	MOTHERWELL	PARTICK T.	RANGERS	ST. MIRREN
ABERDEEN		Oct 7 Feb 10 :	Nov 4 Mar 17 :	Oct 21 Mar 3 :	Nov 25 Apr 7 :	Aug 19 Dec 30 :	Sep 9 Jan 6 :	Sep 30 Feb 3 :	Nov 18 Mar 31 :	Dec 16 Apr 28 :
CELTIC	Dec 9 Apr 21 :		Dec 16 Apr 28 :	Aug 19 Dec 30 :	Sep 16 Jan 13 :	Oct 21 Mar 3 :	Nov 4 Mar 17 :	Nov 25 Apr 7 :	Sep 9 Jan 6 :	Sep 30 Feb 3 :
DUNDEE UTD	Aug 26 Jan 1 :	Oct 14 Feb 24 :		Sep 30 Feb 3 :	Aug 12 Dec 23 :	Sep 9 Jan 6 :	Nov 18 Mar 31 :	Oct 28 Mar 10 :	Dec 9 Apr 21 :	Nov 25 Apr 7 :
HEARTS	Aug 12 Dec 23 :	Oct 28 Mar 10 :	Dec 2 Apr 14 :		Aug 26 Jan 1 :	Sep 16 Jan 13 :	Nov 25 Apr 7 :	Nov 11 Mar 24 :	Oct 14 Feb 24 :	Oct 7 Feb 10 :
HIBERNIAN	Sep 23 Jan 20 :	Nov 18 Mar 31 :	Oct 21 Mar 3 :	Nov 4 Mar 17 :		Sep 30 Feb 3 :	Dec 9 Apr 21 :	Dec 16 Apr 28 :	Aug 19 Dec 30 :	Sep 9 Jan 6 :
MORTON	Oct 28 Mar 10 :	Aug 12 Dec 23 :	Nov 11 Mar 24 :	Nov 18 Mar 31 :	Dec 2 Apr 14 :		Oct 14 Feb 24 :	Oct 7 Feb 10 :	Sep 23 Jan 20 :	Aug 26 Jan 1 :
MOTHERWELL	Nov 11 Mar 24 :	Aug 26 Jan 1 :	Sep 16 Jan 13 :	Sep 23 Jan 20 :	Oct 7 Feb 10 :	Dec 16 Apr 28 :		Aug 12 Dec 23 :	Dec 2 Apr 14 :	Oct 28 Mar 10 :
PARTICK T.	Dec 2 Apr 14 :	Sep 23 Jan 20 :	Aug 19 Dec 30 :	Sep 9 Jan 6 :	Oct 14 Feb 24 :	Dec 9 Apr 21 :	Oct 21 Mar 3 :		Nov 4 Mar 17 :	Nov 18 Mar 31 :
RANGERS	Sep 16 Jan 13 :	Nov 11 Mar 24 :	Oct 7 Feb 10 :	Dec 16 Apr 28 :	Oct 28 Mar 10 :	Nov 25 Apr 7 :	Sep 30 Feb 3 :	Aug 26 Jan 1 :		Aug 12 Dec 23 :
ST. MIRREN	Oct 14 Feb 24 :	Dec 2 Apr 14 :	Sep 23 Jan 20 :	Dec 9 Apr 21 :	Nov 11 Mar 24 :	Nov 4 Mar 17 :	Aug 19 Dec 30 :	Sep 16 Jan 13 :	Oct 21 Mar 3 :	

SCOTTISH 1st DIVISION

Scottish First and Second Division clubs play each other three times in League matches.

	AIRDRIE	ARBROATH	AYR UTD.	CLYDE	CLYDEBANK	DUNBARTON	DUNDEE	HAMILTON A.	KILMARNOCK	MONTROSE	Q. OF SOUTH	RAITH R.	ST. JOHNSTONE	STIRLING A.
AIRDRIE		OCT 14 FEB 24	SEPT 8 APR 23	DEC 9	SEPT 27 APR 7	NOV 11	DEC 23 APR 21	AUG 26 JAN 1	OCT 26	FEB 3 MAR 17	AUG 12	SEP 16 JAN 13	NOV 26	SEP 30
ARBROATH	DEC 16		MAR 24 APR 7	OCT 21 APR 21	APR 26	AUG 12 MAR 3	OCT 26	NOV 11	DEC 9 FEB 10	AUG 26 JAN 1	SEP 13	SEP 30	SEP 16 JAN 13	NOV 26 JAN 20
AYR UTD.	MAR 10	SEP 27		NOV 26	OCT 21	SEP 16 JAN 13	AUG 12 MAR 31	SEP 13 MAR 17	AUG 26 JAN 1	DEC 16 FEB 24	OCT 26	NOV 11	SEP 30 APR 14	DEC 9 FEB 10
CLYDE	OCT 7 FEB 10	DEC 23	SEP 23 JAN 20		DEC 2 APR 14	SEP 13	NOV 16	OCT 14	SEP 27 MAR 24	OCT 26	AUG 26 JAN 1	AUG 12 MAR 31	NOV 11 DEC 9	MAR 10
CLYDEBANK	MAR 24	SEP 8 MAR 10	DEC 23 APR 21	SEP 30		AUG 26 JAN 1	NOV 26	SEP 16 JAN 13	AUG 12 MAR 31	NOV 11	OCT 14 FEB 24	OCT 26	FEB 10	SEP 13
DUNBARTON	SEP 9 JAN 6	MAR 31	NOV 16	FEB 3 MAR 17	NOV 4		SEP 27 APR 7	SEP 23 JAN 20	MAR 10 APR 26	SEP 30	DEC 23	DEC 9 FEB 10	OCT 14	AUG 19 DEC 30
DUNDEE	OCT 21	AUG 19 DEC 30	MAR 3	SEP 16 JAN 13	SEP 23 JAN 20	MAR 24		DEC 2 APR 14	NOV 11	SEP 8 APR 26	OCT 7 FEB 10	MAR 17	NOV 4	DEC 16
HAMILTON A.	NOV 4	SEP 9 JAN 6	FEB 3	DEC 16 FEB 24	NOV 16	NOV 26	SEP 30		OCT 21 APR 21	DEC 9	SEP 27 MAR 24	SEP 8	AUG 19 DEC 30	MAR 3 MAR 31
KILMARNOCK	AUG 19 DEC 30	OCT 7	NOV 4	APR 7	MAR 3	SEP 8	SEP 9 JAN 6	DEC 23		SEP 23 JAN 20	DEC 2 APR 14	OCT 14 FEB 24	FEB 3 MAR 17	NOV 16
MONTROSE	SEP 13	NOV 4	OCT 14	AUG 19 DEC 30	SEP 9 JAN 6	DEC 2 APR 14	MAR 10	OCT 7 FEB 10	NOV 26		JAN 13	DEC 23 APR 21	MAR 3	SEP 27 MAR 24
Q. OF SOUTH	MAR 3 MAR 31	FEB 3 MAR 17	AUG 19 DEC 30	NOV 4	DEC 16	OCT 21 APR 21	DEC 9	APR 7	SEP 30	SEP 16 NOV 16		NOV 26	SEP 6 APR 26	SEP 9 JAN 6
RAITH R.	NOV 16	DEC 2 APR 14	SEP 9 JAN 6	MAR 3	AUG 19 DEC 30	OCT 7	SEP 13 FEB 3	MAR 10 APR 26	DEC 16	OCT 21	SEP 23 JAN 20		MAR 24	NOV 4
ST. JOHNSTONE	SEP 23 JAN 20	NOV 16	DEC 2	SEP 9 JAN 6	OCT 7	DEC 16 FEB 24	AUG 26 JAN 1	OCT 26	SEP 13	AUG 12 MAR 31	MAR 10	SEP 27 APR 7		OCT 21 APR 21
STIRLING A.	DEC 2 APR 14	SEP 23	OCT 7	SEP 6 APR 26	FEB 3 MAR 17	OCT 26	OCT 14 FEB 24	AUG 12	SEP 16 JAN 13	APR 7	NOV 11	AUG 26 JAN 1	DEC 23	

SCOTTISH 2nd DIVISION

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	ALBION R.	ALLOA A.	BERWICK R.	BRECHIN C.	COWDENBEATH	DUNFERMLINE	EAST FIFE	EAST STIRLING	FALKIRK	FORFAR A.	MEADOWBANK T.	QUEEN'S PARK	STENHOUSEMUIR	STRANRAER
ALBION R.		SEP 23 JAN 20	NOV 16	OCT 7 FEB 10	JAN 27	MAR 10 APR 26	MAR 31	MAR 24	AUG 19 DEC 30	SEP 13	SEP 9 FEB 17	DEC 2 APR 14	OCT 21	NOV 4
ALLOA A.	NOV 25		SEP 13	AUG 19 DEC 30	SEP 16 NOV 16	SEP 9 FEB 17	OCT 21 APR 21	DEC 9	MAR 10 APR 26	JAN 27	SEP 30	SEP 27 MAR 24	NOV 4	MAR 3 MAR 31
BERWICK R.	SEP 16 JAN 13	FEB 3 MAR 17		NOV 25 JAN 20	SEP 27	OCT 14 FEB 24	SEP 9	SEP 30 APR 14	MAR 31	DEC 9 FEB 10	NOV 4	MAR 10	AUG 19 DEC 30	OCT 21
BRECHIN C.	DEC 9	OCT 26	SEP 23		AUG 12 MAR 31	FEB 3 MAR 17	APR 7	SEP 16 NOV 16	SEP 30	AUG 26 JAN 1	SEP 6 APR 26	OCT 21 APR 21	JAN 27 FEB 24	FEB 17
COWDENBEATH	OCT 14 FEB 24	JAN 13	MAR 24 APR 7	MAR 3		NOV 4	SEP 23 NOV 25	FEB 3 MAR 17	APR 21	SEP 30	AUG 19 DEC 30	DEC 9	SEP 9	SEP 6 APR 26
DUNFERMLINE	SEP 6	NOV 11	JAN 27	SEP 13	AUG 26 JAN 1		OCT 7 FEB 10	OCT 26	JAN 20	MAR 24 APR 7	OCT 21 DEC 23	AUG 12 MAR 3	DEC 2 APR 14	SEP 16 NOV 16
EAST FIFE	AUG 12 MAR 3	DEC 23	NOV 11 FEB 17	SEP 27 MAR 24	JAN 20	DEC 9		SEP 6	OCT 14	OCT 26	SEP 16 NOV 16	AUG 26 JAN 1	FEB 3	SEP 30 APR 14
EAST STIRLING	SEP 27 APR 7	OCT 7 FEB 10	DEC 2	JAN 13	SEP 13	AUG 19 DEC 30	MAR 10 APR 26		NOV 4	OCT 21 APR 21	NOV 26	SEP 9 FEB 17	MAR 31	JAN 27
FALKIRK	OCT 26	SEP 6	AUG 12 MAR 3	DEC 2 APR 14	OCT 21 DEC 23	SEP 23 NOV 25	JAN 27 FEB 24	AUG 26 JAN 1		NOV 11	OCT 7	FEB 3	SEP 16 JAN 13	MAR 24
FORFAR A.	FEB 3 MAR 17	OCT 14 FEB 24	OCT 7	NOV 4	DEC 2 APR 14	SEP 27	AUG 19 DEC 30	DEC 23	SEP 9 FEB 17		MAR 31	NOV 16	SEP 6 MAR 10	SEP 23 JAN 20
MEADOWBANK T.	NOV 11	DEC 2 APR 14	AUG 26 JAN 1	MAR 10	OCT 26	APR 21	JAN 13	SEP 23 JAN 20	DEC 9 FEB 10	AUG 12 MAR 3		OCT 14	SEP 27 MAR 24	SEP 13
QUEEN'S PARK	SEP 30	APR 7	SEP 6 APR 26	DEC 23	OCT 7 FEB 10	MAR 31	NOV 4	NOV 11	SEP 13 MAR 17	SEP 16 JAN 13	JAN 27 FEB 24		NOV 26	AUG 19 DEC 30
STENHOUSEMUIR	DEC 23 APR 21	AUG 26 JAN 1	OCT 26	OCT 14	NOV 11 FEB 17	SEP 30	SEP 13 MAR 17	AUG 12 MAR 3	NOV 16	APR 26	APR 7	SEP 23 JAN 20		DEC 9 FEB 10
STRANRAER	AUG 26 JAN 1	AUG 12	DEC 23 APR 21	SEP 9 NOV 11	MAR 10	JAN 13	DEC 2	OCT 14 FEB 24	SEP 27 APR 7	NOV 26	FEB 3 MAR 17	OCT 26	OCT 7	

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S quiz time

1. The son of a famous former player and manager of West Brom was 'transferred' from Tranmere Rovers to Mansfield Town. His Christian name is Russell ... do you know his surname and who is his father?

2. Manchester City were strongly linked with Poland international Szarmach, Deyna or Lubanski?

3. Arsenal's Alan Hudson (right) made his full England debut against East or West Germany at Wembley in March, 1974, 1975 or 1976?

4. Gordon McQueen was bought by Manchester United for £500,000 from Leeds United at the tail-end of last season. When the giant Scot made the first team at Elland Road, which legendary centre-half did he replace?

5. True or false? Each club in the Scottish Premier Division plays a total of 42 League games in the course of a season.

6. Which two League clubs would be in action if you saw a game between The Bees and The Hornets?



7. Mike Flanagan, Jeff Wood and Keith Peacock play for Charlton Athletic. Which of them plays in midfield?

8. In which countries do the following play ... (a) Rapid Vienna, (b) Bordeaux, (c) Fiorentina and (d) Halmstad?

9. Sheffield Wednesday boss Jack Charlton recently appointed two former managers as coaches. As players one starred for Manchester United and the other for Liverpool ... can you name them?



10. Which of these Midland clubs has never won the First Division Championship — Aston Villa, Birmingham or West Brom?

11. Can you name the club who were elected to the Scottish Second Division in 1974?

12. Who was the unfortunate Welsh defender who put through his own-goal to give Scotland a 1-0 win at Hampden Park in the 1978 World Cup qualifying section?

13. What was so unusual about the transfer fee paid by Spurs to Fulham for John Lucy recently?

14. Did Derek Johnstone (left) of Rangers make any appearances for Scotland in the 1978 World Cup Finals in Argentina?

15. The League Cup First Round first-leg is played on Saturday, August 12th. Newcomers Wigan Athletic play which other club?

ANSWERS

1. Allen, son of Ronnie. 2. Deyna. 3. West Germany in 1975. 4. Jack Charlton. 5. False — they play 36. 6. Brentford and Watford. 7. Keith Peacock. 8. (a) Austria, (b) France, (c) Italy, (d) Sweden. 9. Maurice Sesters and Ian St. John. 10. Birmingham. 11. Meadowbank. 12. Ian Evans. 13. The first figure to be fixed by the Football League's new transfer tribunal. 14. No. 15. Tranmere.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Pratt. (5) Bonds. (9) Loosen. (11) It. (12) Shay. (14) Use. (16) Son. (17) Boost. (20) Weal. (21) Red. (23) Anfield Road. (26) Alf. (27) Hint. (28) Bank. (29) Badges. (31) Items. (32) No. (33) Yawn. (36) Selhurst.

DOWN:— (1) Pass. (2) Alan. (3) Toy. (4) To. (5) Be. (6) Onus. (7) Die. (8) St. (10) Shoal. (13) Horn. (15) Strong. (17) Beef. (18) Oldham. (19) Odd. (20) Wilkins. (22) Eaten. (23) Abbey. (24) Fan. (25) Rids. (29) Bell. (30) Soft. (34) As. (35) Or.

Jumbled Name: GLENN HODDLE.

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ARSENAL The Gunners
ARSENAL New Club Crest — Red, White, Yellow and Blue
CHELSEA Football Association Cup Winners 1970
CHELSEA I am a Supporter — Royal Blue and White
CHELSEA I am a Supporter — Yellow and Blue
CHELSEA Large Official Crest
CHELSEA European Cup Winners Cup 1971
CHELSEA The Shed
CHELSEA New Club Crest — Yellow and Blue
CHELSEA Stamford Bridge
DERBY Football League Champions 1972
FULHAM Club Crest — White
FULHAM Club Crest — Red and Black
FULHAM I am a Supporter — Black and White
FULHAM Centenary 1980
FULHAM Craven Cottage
IPSWICH Football Association Cup Winners 1978
LEEDS Fairs Cup Winners 1971
LEEDS Football Association Cup Winners 1972
LEEDS Football League Champions 1974
LIVERPOOL Football League Champions 1973
LIVERPOOL Union European Football Association Cup Winners 1973
LIVERPOOL Football Association Cup Winners 1974
LIVERPOOL The Kop
LIVERPOOL Football League Champions 1976
LIVERPOOL Union European Football Association Cup Winners 1976
LIVERPOOL Football League Champions 1977
LIVERPOOL European Champions Cup 1977
LIVERPOOL European Champions Cup 1978
MANCHESTER UNITED Red Devil Club Crest
MANCHESTER UNITED Football Association Cup Winners 1977
NOTTINGHAM FOREST Football League Champions 1978
SOUTHAMPTON Football Association Cup Winners 1976
SUNDERLAND Football Association Cup Winners 1973
TOTTENHAM Union European Football Assoc. Cup Winners 1972
TOTTENHAM Club Crest
TOTTENHAM I am a Supporter — Navy Blue and White
WEST HAM Football Association Cup Winners 1975
WEST HAM New Club Crest
WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT — ARGENTINA 1978

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Football Association Cup Winners Double 1976
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WE'RE off and running! I'm not very sure what happened to the close-season, but short and sweet though it was, the new 1978-79 campaign is now a reality.

And it is going to be the most vital of seasons for both my club, Celtic, and my country, Scotland. To say nothing of its importance for yours truly.

It is the term in which Celtic will try to regain greatness after their most disastrous season in two decades... and they will try to do so with a new manager at the helm.

Scotland must begin their challenge for the European Championship with the bitter taste of the World Cup Finals episode still in our mouths.

And Danny McGrain Esq. must discover if he can still remember how to kick a ball after almost a year of inactivity.

Celtic must get a good start. Last year we began like relegation candidates instead of Championship contenders and in a long League programme everyone expects to have a slight slump somewhere along the line.

If you start badly you can't afford to slip up at any other point in the season. It really is vital to new boss Billy McNeill we get off the



back date, but I am training with the boys and have been kicking a ball even if it is not at full stretch.

It's a day to day thing and although there were hopes at one stage I might play at the beginning of the season I don't want to rush things and set myself back.

Remember I haven't played in nearly a year and you don't just suddenly jump right back into the thick of it.

I am training harder than I thought I would be able to do, but it is still a case of wait and see.

Finally, I would like to send my best wishes to former Parkhead team-mate Vic Davidson who has been transferred from Motherwell to Blackpool for £30,000.

I was glad to see Vic got the move he wanted, but sorry such a good player left Scotland. He really is a class mover and at £30,000 Blackpool have got themselves a real bargain.

What I want to know is how English clubs can pick up players like that from Scotland for that kind of price and yet, with all due respect to the men involved, they pay £100,000 and £150,000 for absolute unknowns from the lower Divisions in England.

If anyone can explain that I would be glad to hear from them.

See you in two weeks...

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' DEREK JOHNSTONE

'A vital season for Celtic - and Scotland'

blocks well.

In some ways we at Parkhead may profit from the showing of last season. In all my playing days with Celtic I never knew what it was like to go through bad times, but guys like Roy Aitken, Tommy Burns and George McCluskey found out what pressure was all about... and learned to live with it.

They discovered Celtic weren't invincible... and that could pay dividends for them this time.

It is easy to play in a good team, but these players still looked good when the chips were down.

And, in a strange sort of way, that's just the kind of philosophy which could help Scotland get back on our feet.

Ally MacLeod will stay as manager and whatever you may think of that there can be no denying he learned more in three weeks in Argentina than he did in probably the rest of his 13 years' managerial career.

He is over the big hurdle now and the next step must be to get the fans behind him again... regroup Ally's Army if you like.

It is very important the Argentina affair doesn't reflect in the League attendances this season and it won't if Scotland pick up the pieces in the European Championship.

I would like to see Ally getting some assistance... and let's be

honest, there is no man who could give him more than our own Jock Stein. I don't know my old boss's personal plans for the future, but I do know there are a few million players and fans North of the border who would like to see him team up with Ally.

It is a hard job being manager of Scotland, make no mistake about that, but it could be a sight easier with two men in control.

Previewing the European Championship bid and the section games against Belgium, Norway, Austria and Portugal isn't easy now when you remember the things people were predicting in the pre-Argentina days.

But if we want to qualify we must put the pressure on our opponents by winning abroad. Scotland are never the same team away from home as at Hampden, but this is something we must change.

In our World Cup qualifying section there were only three teams. This time there are five, so obviously the situation is not going to be so clear-cut.

Meanwhile on a more personal front it is difficult to give you an exact position on my injury problems.

As I write, I can't give a come-

George McCluskey (right) had a fine 1977-78 despite Celtic's poor form.



"NO ONE needs to tell me what a disappointing season we had last time out," says Roddie.

"My happiest experience so far in soccer came the previous season when we won the Premier Championship and the Scottish Cup. Remember, too, that a lot of critics thought we were so unlucky to lose in the League Cup Final to Aberdeen in extra-time.

"But it was a great feeling to be crowned Champions. When we went into last season we were determined to make sure that title stayed at Parkhead.

'Injuries'

"As everyone now knows we had a disastrous season. There were many reasons for the dip in our fortunes. The transfer of Kenny Dalglish, the injuries to Danny McGrain, Pat Stanton and Alfie Conn plus the loss of form of some players.

"However, that is all in the past now. Mr. McNeill has been very impressive since returning to Parkhead and we are all desperate to make up for last season's disappointment.

"Our fans surely deserve better ... and we want to repay them for their faith in the team during the term when things weren't going right for us."

MacDonald, so impressive in

'Desperate to make up for last term's disappointment'

RODDIE MacDONALD — Celtic



Rangers' Sandy Jardine (dark shirt) on the ball v. Celtic during last September's 3-2 win at Ibrox.

the air, is following in the illustrious footsteps of Billy McNeill in the centre-half position with Celtic. It will be a difficult task for the young highlander to emulate the

feats of his former skipper, but if there is one man who can get the best out of MacDonald it must surely be McNeill, one of Scotland's best-ever pivots.

FOUR SCOTS WITH HIGH HOPES FOR THE NEW SEASON



'This time we won't be one step from glory'

STEVE ARCHIBALD

— Aberdeen

ONE PLAYER who has already known the tactics and ideas of Billy McNeill as a manager is Steve Archibald, who has been



Jon Harper (left) of Aberdeen scores against Partick Thistle last term.

under his guidance with two clubs, Clyde and Aberdeen.

"Mr. McNeill may be relatively

new to management, but he knows where he is going," says Archibald, who cost McNeill

£35,000 when he moved from the Shawfield club.

"At the same time, though, our new boss Alex Ferguson, who replaced Mr. McNeill, knows what he is looking for, too.

"Really, you cannot compare the two bosses in some aspects, but both have their own, firm ideas on how soccer should be played and how players should behave on and off the field.

Also-rans

"Last season we were only one step away from glory. We came so close in the League and the Cup, but no one remembers the also-rans. Now we are out to go one better.

"Mr. Ferguson has spoken to us all at length on what he expects, in fact, demands from us.

"He did a magnificent job in helping St. Mirren into the Premier Division on a shoestring and he will be bringing that successful touch with him to Pittodrie."

'After consolidation, now watch us go'

BOBBY HOUSTON

— Partick Thistle



"PARTICK Thistle have been consolidating their position in the Premier Division over the past couple of years," says Bobby, a former skipper of the Firhill Club.

"Now just watch us go! The boss, Bertie Auld, has been building the side quietly and effectively in bringing players such as

rigours that lay ahead, but I think we have now proved conclusively we are a talented side that can match up to anyone.

"We got a boost just before the start of the season when Alan Rough, our international goalkeeper, signed a new contract with the club. It's the first time big Alan has put pen to paper in

Partick (dark socks) in action again. This time on the attack v. St. Mirren.



Alex O'Hara, from Rangers, and Colin McAdam, from Motherwell, to the team and this season should see us having a more consistent time of it.

"We used to be known as 'The Great Unpredictables', but I don't think that applies today. Mr. Auld has worked hard in instilling confidence and consistency into the side and although we faded towards the end of last season after a good run we still proved to everyone we have what it takes to be successful in this set-up.

Exist

"Remember, we are a part-time club and a lot of critics said we couldn't possibly exist in the Premier Division. They said we wouldn't be fit enough for the

about four years!

"Everyone at Firhill rates him the best in Britain and it's great to see he has settled some of his differences with the club. And, of course, we have young Billy Thomson in the reserves.

Position

"Billy would probably be a first team 'keeper with a lot of other clubs in Scotland. Certainly he has never let down the side when he has played instead of Alan.

"It's a good position to be in. Mr. Auld rates both Alan and Billy as the best in the country.

"Anyway, look out for some good results from Thistle in the new season. And look out, too, for even more consistency."

ANOTHER part-time club who will be trying to do a 'Partick Thistle' and consolidate a place in the top ten is Morton, who won the First Division title last term.

"Yes, we are all looking forward to the season," says rugged right-back and skipper Davie. "I'm sure we will shock a lot of the big teams, but, at the same time, I do not believe in making rash promises.

Tough

"Obviously we want to do well and we believe we can give the fans plenty to shout about, but we also know it is going to be a tough season.

"People are already saying we will go down. They could very

'We will shock some of the big teams'

DAVIE HAYES

— Morton



well be eating their own words at the end of the season. Look at our Cup games against Aberdeen, for instance.

"The Dons were so very close in both the major competitions, but after 180 minutes against us they were only one goal better off than us. I think that illustrates very well the fact we are a good, competent side.

Unfortunate

"We drew with them at Pittodrie which is something neither Rangers nor Celtic managed to achieve. Okay, we lost 2-1 in the replay at Cappielow, but everyone who saw that game were united at the end in saying we were a little unfortunate, especially in the second-half when we had the bulk of the play.

"No, we will not be afraid of having a real go in this Division. Benny Rooney, the manager, has the respect of every player at Cappielow and we believe in him and his ability completely.

"We have no reason to be frightened with Mr. Rooney behind us. It could be, though, a lot of other teams will be a wee bit scared of coming to Cappielow.

"There won't be any sides leaving Greenock with two easily-won points. Everything that is taken from us will have to be fought for. We will give absolutely nothing away."



Morton boss Benny Rooney.

SHOOT PREVIEWS THE START OF THE NEW SCOTTISH LEAGUE SEASON

JIM CLUNIE couldn't have got a tougher baptism as a soccer manager when the big kick-off in Scottish soccer arrives this Saturday (August 12). The new St. Mirren manager takes his young side to Ibrox for a confrontation with Champions Rangers.

It's going to be an intriguing game, a real struggle for points. The off-the-field battle of wits between Clunie and John Greig, also in charge of his side for the first time in a Premier Division match, could be just as exciting.

One man Rangers will have to watch closely is super-fast striker Frank McGarvey, who has been linked with Celtic recently. He gave the Ibrox men a lot of problems last season in their four League games.

He scored twice in the 3-3 draw at Love Street and was on the mark again in the 1-1 draw in their last game at Ibrox. Another player who will be out to do well against



Action from one of the Premier Division games between Rangers and St. Mirren (stripes) last season.

tish international team-boss, is another manager making his Premier Division baptism when his newly-promoted Hearts side take on Aberdeen, managed, of course, for the first time in a fight for points by Alex Ferguson.

Hearts could be up against it in this fixture. The Dons lost only one game — the Scottish Cup Final — in their last 20 or so games last season and they will want to get another good run started in this match.

In Joe Harper and Drew Jarvie they might just have the players to take both points home to Pittodrie.

In the remaining Premier fixture, Roger Hynd's Motherwell are at home to Partick Thistle. Both clubs had good runs during last season, but at the end were only among the also-rans. Former Ranger Hynd and ex-Celt Bertie Auld, the Thistle boss, will want an improvement this term. It could end as a draw.

Top game in the First Division is at Somerset Park where relegated Ayr United meet Dundee, who were so unlucky in the promotion struggle last season. Both sides seem evenly balanced and another draw could be on the cards.

In the Second Division, Falkirk,

YOUNG SAINTS COULD UPSET CHAMPIONS AT IBROX

Rangers will be Iain Munro, their former player.

Munro missed a penalty in the 1-1 draw and threw away the chance of giving his side a shock victory. Rangers will be hoping Gordon Smith starts the season the way he ended last term... on the goal-trail.

The winners of this match, no matter how the result goes, must be the fans. Skill and talent will be paraded in abundance and we must hope there is no repeat of the flashes of violence that flared in last season's games when Tom Forsyth and Tommy McLean, of Rangers, and Saints' Bobby Reid were ordered off.

Benny Rooney will be leading his Morton side into his first Premier match where he faces his former Parkhead colleague Billy McNeill, Celtic's new boss, at Cappielow.

This promises to be a thriller played at a pulsating pace. Morton are always a dangerous side on the tight Cappielow pitch and Celtic could struggle to get into their stride.

McNeill will be looking for two points from the side that disappointed so much last season. One player who is looking forward eagerly to this clash is Morton's



One player who is determined to make up for last term's disappointments is Celtic's Tommy Burns (left). A dejected Ayr 'keeper Hugh Sproat (right). His club kick-off against Dundee in possibly the top game of the First Division.

top performer Andy Ritchie, the former Celtic starlet.

If he is given time and space, Celtic could be in trouble. However, the Parkhead side have players such as Roy Aitken, Tommy Burns and Roddie MacDonald who are determined to make up for last season's disappointments.

At Tannadice, Dundee United take on Hibs in what should be another closely fought affair. It took Hibs' 12 attempts before they chalked up their first Premier victory over Jim McLean's side, but they could settle for a draw this time.

Again there will be a lot of personalities on display with the likes of Davie Narey, Graeme Payne and Paul Sturrock, of United, and Ally MacLeod, Des Bremner and John Brownlie, of Hibs, in action.

Willie Ormond, the former Scot-



aiming to get promotion in one year after relegation, take on Dave Smith's revitalised Berwick Rangers, another team who came so close to promotion last season. Berwick might just return to Shiel-field with both points.

Anyway, it's time for the talking to stop. Now is the time and now is the hour. Let battle commence...

STAN Cummins, Middlesbrough's 19-year-old fast-rising starlet, made his League debut as a 17-year-old apprentice against Ipswich at Ayresome Park in 1976.

"We were beaten 2-0," he says. "It was when Ipswich were second in the table to Liverpool. It was a bad opener for me. I never got a kick. Ipswich were too good a side."

But last season the pint-sized striker was picked to play against Aston Villa in November at Villa Park — his first outing since the Ipswich affair.

"We won 2-1 and I headed the winner," he says. "This was probably my breakthrough. I got the chance that afternoon and I made the most of it."

"I missed the following few matches, then I came back and,

strangely enough, it was against Aston Villa. I played well; we won 1-0 and I've been in the team ever since.

"I always wanted to be a First Division footballer and now I've more or less achieved it, well, I couldn't ask for anything better. It's a dream come true."

Cummins arrived at Ayresome Park straight from school and graduated through the youth system.

"I had a few opportunities to look around and to go elsewhere," he says, "but Harold Shepherdson asked me to sign schoolboy forms and I did. I went to Chelsea a few times and they offered me schoolboy and apprentice forms, but I chose Middlesbrough."

"Last summer Jack Charlton let me go to the States for four



months to play and gain experience.

"The facilities were brilliant; everything was first class. I played for Minnesota Kicks. The football was a bit false because they're not all that good really."

"When I went I thought it was going to be easy, but you're training every day and playing two matches a week, often in high temperatures."

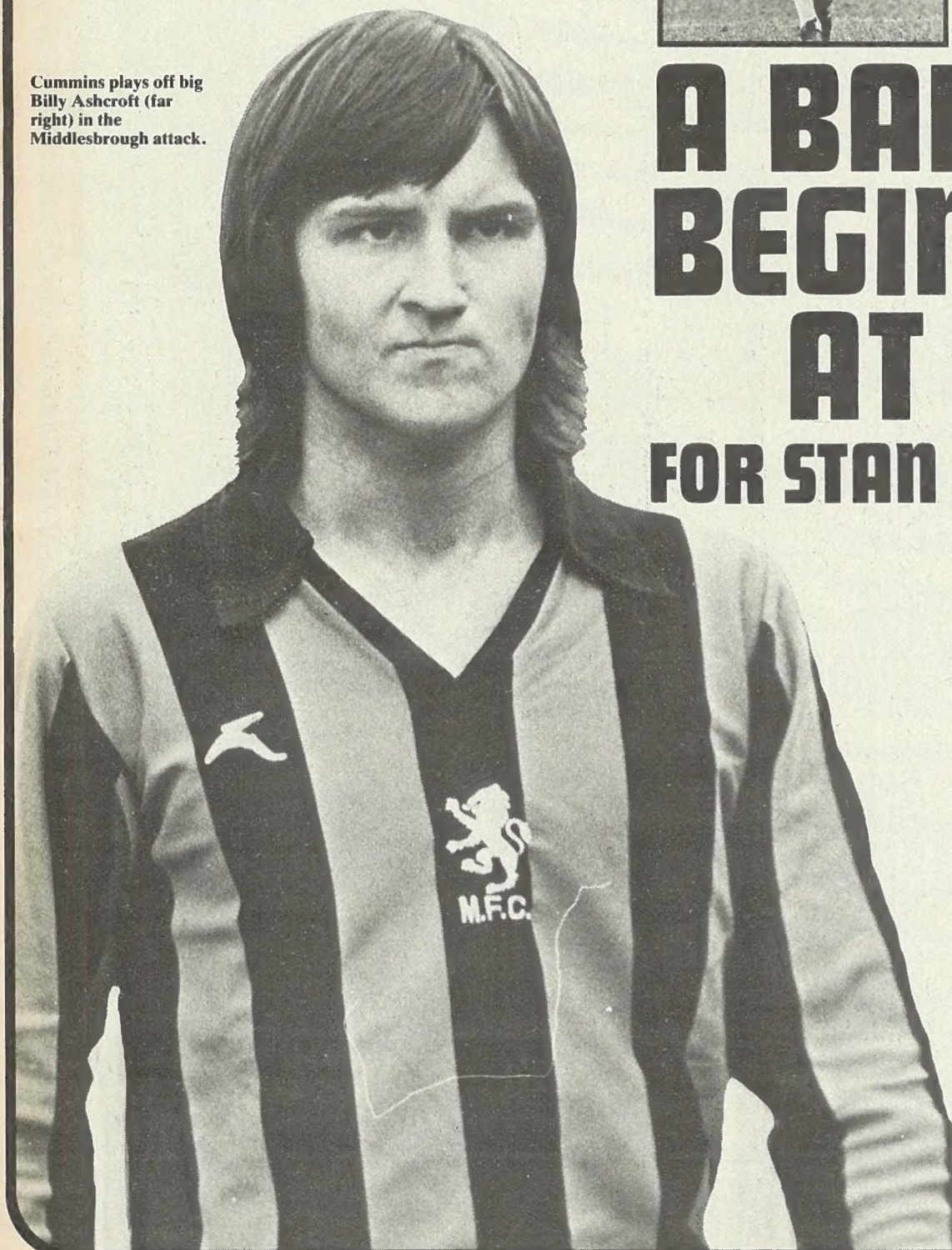
For Cummins nearly all the matches he's played in so far have been memorable, but one is extra special and that was the derby against Newcastle at St. James' Park.

"It was my first one," he says. "Where I live all my mates are Newcastle supporters. They told me they were going to barrack Boro and to shout things from the terraces, which I suppose is only natural."

"My reply was to silence them by scoring. They thought I'd never get the chance to score and when I did it was just unbelievable."

A BAD BEGINNING AT BORO FOR STAN CUMMINS

Cummins plays off big Billy Ashcroft (far right) in the Middlesbrough attack.



With six players of 21 and under, Middlesbrough are a young, new-look team with the emphasis fixed firmly on attack.

"It knitted together well last season," says Cummins. "In our 4-4-2 system the two outside men of the midfield break forward to support the two front runners."

"I play off big Billy Ashcroft — he gets the knock downs and I pick up the loose ends. When Graeme Souness left for Liverpool we had a re-shuffle."

"We picked up after that and went nine games without defeat."

What's the difference between previous boss Jack Charlton and John Neal?

"Jack always does things his own way — he's just himself. He's in command. John's quieter. He listens to what people have to say before giving his opinion. Jack more or less told you what you had to do, but John asks you what you think is best and we reach a mutual agreement."

And the coming season? "With us being such a young side it took all last term for us to get to know one another, but we gained in experience during the second-half. If we can be more consistent and not drop so many points as we have done to the lower clubs, then I think we can finish in a high position."

NOTTS COUNTY



BACK ROW (left to right): Sammy Chapman, David Hunt, David McVay, Arthur Mann, Pedro Richards, Tristan Benjamin, Colin King, Eric McManus, Jeff Blockley, John Sims, Colin Murphy (coach).

FRONT ROW: Steve Carter (now Walsall), Paul Hooks, Ian McCulloch, Jimmy Sirrel (manager), Mick Vinter, Ray O'Brien, Dave Smith.

CENTRE ROW: Jack Wheeler (trainer), Brian Stubbs, Ricky Green,